

The Unknown Storm – August 30, 2023

Many uncertainties existed at the beginning of the week . . . storm?

On this side of the storm we have many questions. The before.

But God doesn't have those questions. He knows. He's in the after.

On a trip, in a plane – you don't have to worry – the pilot knows the way.

The airline will get you to your destination.

God knows how to get us to our destination.

We don't want delays. Detours. We pray them away.

But God allows, and then uses, those challenges... those storms/life.

Afraid of the storms of life? Need reassurance? Here are 3 truths:

1. Don't worry about your life.

Matt. 6:25-34 – Jesus says not to worry about your life. . . what you eat, what you wear . . . God takes care of us. . . more than birds, and beauty beyond our wealth.

Matt 6:32 - [Contemporary English Version](#) – “Only people who don't know God are always worrying about such things.”

- Worry doesn't add to our lives.
- Focus only on today – don't worry about tomorrow, about the unknown storms. **Trust in God. You know Him.**

2. God is the gatekeeper

Think ... story of **Job**. Satan had to ask **permission** to do anything to Job.

- God set **boundaries** for what could happen.
 - o What God allows, He has a purpose for the pain.
 - Our **pain** is **self-inflicted**... b/c of **worry**. We forget this truth:
New American Std. Bible - Rom. 8:28 - “God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.”
- **We may be inconvenienced while God sets us up for goodness**
- Would you . . . go w/o cell phone/wifi – 30 days – \$1 million?

3. Change happens suddenly.

- “A lot can happen in 3 days” – resurrection, storm, & blessings.
 - Suddenly there was a multitude of angels praising God
 - Suddenly Jesus appeared to the disciples . . .
 - Suddenly an angel appeared to Peter, woke him up, walked out...
 - Suddenly, while Paul & Silas were praying & singing hymns, an earthquake made the doors open, chains loose, & the jailer was saved – the next day they were freed
 - Suddenly – day of Pentecost – a mighty rushing wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.
 - Suddenly, God works in our lives. Changes things.
 - Goodness is coming. Blessings are on the way.

Song of the week – “You’re Still God” by Philippa Hanna