

Hurricane Season

By Andy Smith

Hurricane Seasons

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Matthew 7:24-27(NIV)

One sunny afternoon on a hillside overlooking the Sea of Galilee, Jesus begins to tell a simple parable about storms, houses, foundations, rocks and sand. Two different times in this brief story Jesus says, *“rain came down, the streams rose and the winds blew and beat against that house.”*

Most probably Jesus is not imagining a gentle summer rain or a light drizzle! He is talking about storms that devastate. Hurricanes, tornados, tsunamis and life-altering storms were on his mind. He is speaking about storms that test the very foundations of our lives.

So what’s the point in his parable? In the days of Jesus, a parable was a fictional story told from everyday life. Jesus is carefully crafting word pictures of storms, houses and foundations. He is not talking about *if* storms will intersect our lives, but *when* they will. No one is immune from

life's storms. The central question for those fishermen that day and for us today is how the foundation of our lives will withstand the turbulence of life's uninvited storms that knock us down?

We can all probably identify specific *Hurricane Seasons* in our lives when the relentless torrential rains fell. The hurricane-force winds blew and beat against us. We wondered if we would survive. Our house seemed to be crashing in on us.

Maybe the real point of Jesus' parable is about the foundation upon which we build our lives in order to withstand the storms *when* they strike. Foundations are either rock or sand. They are either real or imitation. Storms don't know the difference. They batter both kinds of foundations. Only one survives the hurricanes that strike our lives. Storms are real. Foundations are critical. Jesus is the rock, our foundation. All other foundations are merely sandy imitations that often lead us to believe we will be fine in a storm, but as the wind and waves intensify, sandy soil erodes.

Honest Henry's Store is a beautifully written parable based on the true story of *The Great Galveston Hurricane*, which destroyed Galveston, Texas in 1900. So come with me to Galveston, Texas and meet Henry Parker. He knows a thing or two about hurricanes. He owns a little store not on Main Street where all the action is. Jesus would love shopping in Henry's store...

Questions for Thought:

1. Have you ever underestimated the difficulty you'd face as you planned for the future - what did you learn when the storm hit?
2. Who do you know that is going through a massive storm right now? What can you do to support them in their struggle?
3. How are you preparing spiritually for the next storm in life that will hit you?