

**DAY 3 — SATURDAY, 4 APRIL 2026**

**SESSION 7: STANDING STRONG IN STORMS**

**TIME: 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM**



**STANDING STRONG  
THROUGH THE STORM**

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Storms are inevitable but collapse are not!

Every believer faces storms:

- storms of loss
- storms of sickness
- storms of uncertainty
- storms of spiritual attack
- storms of disappointment



But storms don't decide your future—**your foundation does.**

**1. Rooted faith Stands strong.**

**Jeremiah 17:7-8**

Jeremiah paints a picture of a tree planted by water.

**A. “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord”**

**Trust is the root**

Not trust in circumstances, people, or feelings—trust in God.

**B. "He shall be like a tree planted..."**

- **Planted = positioned**

God plants you where you can grow, even if the environment looks dry.

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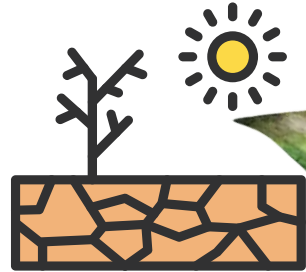
**C. "Spreads out its roots..."**

- **Deep roots = stability**

Deep roots are formed in prayer, Scripture, obedience, and worship.

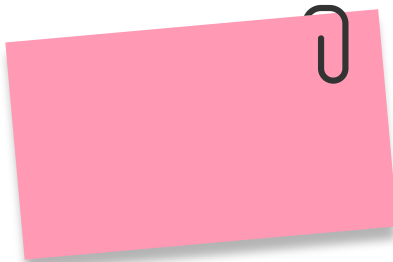
**D. "Will not fear when heat comes..."**

**Pressure doesn't destroy the rooted**  
Heat reveals what you're rooted in.



**E. "In the year of drought, it will not cease to bear fruit"**  
**Fruit in famine**

Storms don't stop fruitfulness when your source is God.





## Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3)

- **The Context:** These three young men were living in a "heatwave" of persecution. King Nebuchadnezzar commanded everyone to bow to a gold statue or be thrown into a literal furnace.

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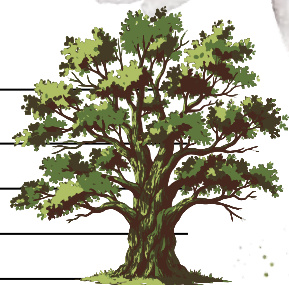
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- **The Rooted Faith:** Their response to the King is a perfect example of a tree planted by the water. They said, "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us... But even if he does not, we will not serve your gods."
- **The Stand:** Because their faith was rooted in the **character of God** (the stream) rather than the **circumstances** (the furnace), they stood strong. They didn't wither under the pressure of the "heat."
- **The Result:** They were thrown in, but they weren't burned. Even the King recognized that their "roots" were connected to something divine.

### The Oak in the Hurricane

- **The Event:** Arborists often study why some trees survive Category 5 hurricanes while others are uprooted. In many cases, it's not the thickness of the trunk, but the "root-to-shoot" ratio.

- **The Connection:** These oaks have root systems that grow twice as wide as their branches. They are often "interlocked" with the roots of other trees in the grove.



- **The Spiritual Parallel:** A person with "Rooted Faith" like Jeremiah describes doesn't just grow upward (for show); they grow downward (for survival). When the "hurricane" of grief, financial loss, or sickness hits, they stand strong because they have a hidden source of nourishment that the storm cannot touch.

The Condition	The Rooted Response	The Spiritual Reality
"When heat comes"	No Fear	Confidence in God's protection.
"Year of drought"	No Worries	Relying on the "Stream" (Spirit) when resources are dry.
"Constant Season"	Never fails to bear fruit	Your character remains consistent regardless of the weather.

1. God is with you in the Storm.

Isaiah 43:1-3

God doesn't promise a storm-free life—He promises a **storm-proof presence**.

**A. "Fear not, for I have redeemed you"**

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**Identity before instruction**

God reminds you who you are before He tells you what to do.

**B. "I have called you by name; you are Mine"**

**Belonging brings courage**

You don't face storms as a stranger—you face them as God's own

**C. "When you pass through the waters..."**

**Not if, but when**

Storms are guaranteed, but so is God's presence.

**D. "They shall not overwhelm you"**

**Storms may touch you, but they cannot take you**

God sets boundaries around the storm.

**E. "For I am the Lord your God"**

**Presence is the anchor**

Your confidence is not in the size of your faith but in the size of your God.

## The Fourth Man in the Fire

- **The Context:** We return to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3), but this time focusing on the **presence**. When the King looked into the furnace, he was terrified. He didn't just see the three men he threw in; he saw four.

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- **The "With You" Factor:** The King remarked, "The appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods." God did not stop them from being thrown into the fire; He joined them in the fire.
- **The Connection:** Isaiah 43:3 says, "For I am the Lord your God... your Savior." The "fourth man" was the physical manifestation of this promise. They walked out without even the smell of smoke on their clothes because God was the barrier between them and the heat.

## The Faith of Mary McLeod Bethune

- **The Context:** Mary McLeod Bethune was a pioneering educator and civil rights leader. In the early 1900s, she started a school for African American girls with just \$1.50. She faced literal storms of hatred, including threats from the Ku Klux Klan.

- **The Storm:** One night, the Klan marched onto her campus to intimidate her and burn the school. It was a "storm" of terror that would have swept most people away.

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- **The Connection:** Mary stood her ground. She gathered her students, and they began to sing hymns in the dark. Legend has it that the "storm" of attackers was so unsettled by the peace and presence of God surrounding the women that they eventually turned around and left.
- **The Result:** She later said she never felt alone because she knew she was "precious and honoured" in God's sight (v. 4). Her school grew into Bethune-Cookman University, proving that the "rivers" of opposition could not sweep over her mission

The Trial	The Specific Promise	What It Means
"The Waters"	<i>"I will be with you."</i>	You won't face the depth alone.
"The Rivers"	<i>"They will not sweep over you."</i>	You will not be overwhelmed or
"The Fire"	<i>"You will not be burned."</i>	The trial will change you, but it won't

# 1. Building on the Rock.

**Matthew 7:24-27**

**Jesus gives two builders, two houses, one storm.**

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## **A. Both houses looked strong.**

**Until the storm came**

Storms reveal foundations.



## **B. The wise builder hears AND obeys**

Hearing the Word is not enough—obedience anchors

## **C. The foolish builder hears but does not act.**

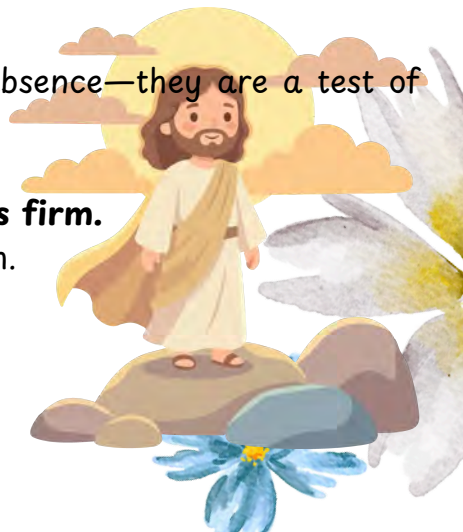
Knowledge without obedience is spiritual self-deception.

## **D. The storm hits both houses.**

Storms are not a sign of God's absence—they are a test of your foundation.

## **E. The house on the rock stands firm.**

Obedience builds unshakable faith.





## Joseph's Three Storms

### 1. The Storm of Betrayal (The Rain)

- **The Event:** Joseph's brothers hated him and threw him into a pit, eventually selling him into slavery.



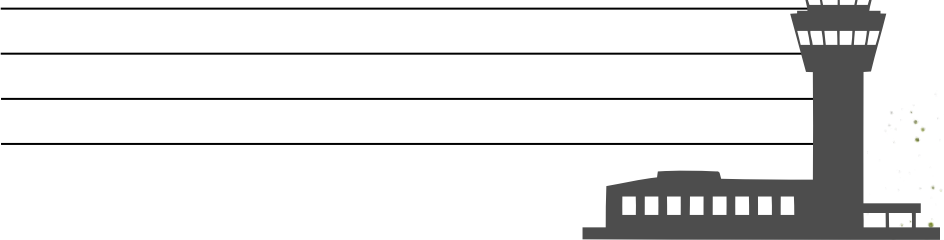
- **The Rock:** Joseph could have let his foundation be his **family's approval**. If he had, his "house" would have collapsed the moment they turned on him. Instead, his foundation was his **relationship with God**. Even as a slave in Egypt, the Bible says, "The Lord was with Joseph."

### 2. The Storm of Temptation (The Floods)

- **The Event:** In Potiphar's house, Joseph was pressured daily by Potiphar's wife to betray his integrity.
- **The Rock:** Many people build their foundation on **convenience** or **pleasure** (the sand). Joseph's foundation was **God's Word**. He famously asked, "How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9). Because his "house" was built on the Rock of God's commands, it didn't wash away when the flood of temptation hit.

### 3. The Storm of Injustice (The Winds)

- **The Event:** Joseph was falsely accused and thrown into prison for years. He was forgotten by those he helped.
- **The Rock:** Joseph's foundation was **God's Sovereignty** (the belief that God is in control). He waited patiently in the dark. Eventually, he was raised up to be the Prime Minister of Egypt.



- **The Result:** When he finally met his brothers again, he didn't collapse into bitterness. He said, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good" (Genesis 50:20).

### The Sky Tower in Auckland

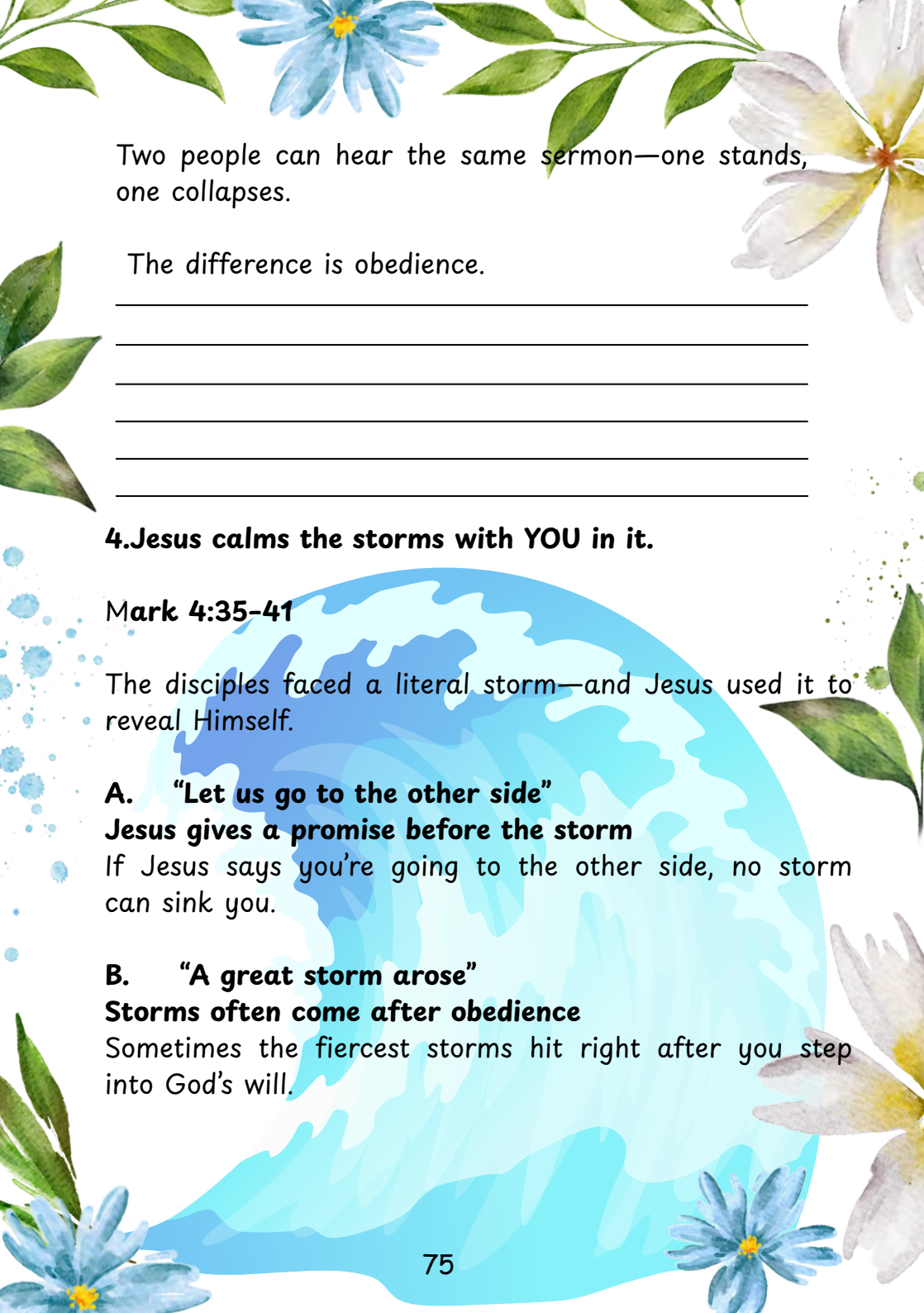
- **The Engineering:** The Sky Tower is the tallest freestanding structure in the Southern Hemisphere. To allow it to rise 328 meters into the sky, engineers had to dig **15 meters deep** into a massive base of sandstone and volcanic rock.
- **The "Action":** They used 2,000 tonnes of reinforced steel and 15,000 cubic meters of concrete for the foundation alone.
- **The Storm:** Auckland is prone to high winds and seismic activity. Because the tower is "bolted" into the bedrock, it can sway significantly in the wind without the base ever shifting.

- **The Spiritual Parallel:** Building on the rock is hard work—it requires "digging deep" (Luke 6:48). Just like the tower, when we practice the teachings of Jesus (humility, forgiveness, integrity), we are "bolted" to the Rock of Ages. We might "sway" during a crisis, but we will not collapse.

**Why Joseph represents the "Wise Builder"?**

Feature of the House	Joseph's Application
Digging Deep	Joseph spent years in "the pit"
The Rock	He refused to build his identity
The Great Crash	Because he didn't build on the sand





Two people can hear the same sermon—one stands, one collapses.

The difference is obedience.

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#### **4. Jesus calms the storms with YOU in it.**

##### **Mark 4:35-41**

The disciples faced a literal storm—and Jesus used it to reveal Himself.

##### **A. “Let us go to the other side” Jesus gives a promise before the storm**

If Jesus says you’re going to the other side, no storm can sink you.

##### **B. “A great storm arose” Storms often come after obedience**

Sometimes the fiercest storms hit right after you step into God’s will.



**C. Jesus was asleep.**

His peace is not indifference

He sleeps because He is not threatened by what terrifies you.

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**D. "Teacher, don't You care"**

**Storms expose our fears**

Storms reveal what we believe about God's heart.

**E. "Peace, be still"**

**Jesus speaks to what you cannot.**

He calms storms with a word.

**F. "Why are you afraid"**

**Storms are classrooms of faith.**

Storms teach us who Jesus really is.

**Paul and the Shipwreck (Acts 27)**

- **The Storm:** Paul was being transported as a prisoner to Rome when a "hurricane-force wind" called a Northeaster struck the ship. The storm lasted 14 days. The crew threw the cargo and tackle overboard, and the Bible says "all hope was lost."

- **The "Jesus in the Boat" Moment:** While 276 people were panicking, Paul stood up. He told them that an angel of God—the God he belonged to—had stood beside him. He said, "So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me" (Acts 27:25).

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- **The Result:** The ship was completely destroyed, but because Paul was rooted in God's presence, **not a single life was lost.**
- **The Connection:** In Mark 4, the storm stopped immediately. In Acts 27, the storm continued, but the **peace** was the same. Paul was "Rising Strong" in the middle of a wreck because his roots were in the One who holds the winds.

## John Wesley and the Moravians

### The Storm

In **1735**, **John Wesley**, a highly educated and religious man, was on a ship traveling to America. During the voyage, a terrifying storm broke out. The main mast split, and the sea poured over the deck. Wesley, despite all his religious knowledge, was **paralyzed by the fear of death.** He realized his "house" was built on the sand of his own effort, not the Rock.

## The "Jesus in the Boat" Moment

In the middle of the screaming wind and crashing waves, Wesley looked over and saw a group of **Moravian missionaries** (whom we mentioned in our "Fellowship" pillar).

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While the English passengers were shrieking in terror, Moravians—including the women and children—were calmly singing psalms.

Wesley was stunned. He later wrote in his journal:

"I asked one of them afterwards, 'Were you not afraid?' He answered, 'I thank God, no.' I asked, 'But were not your women and children afraid?' He replied mildly, 'No; our women and children are not afraid to die.'"

## The Connection

Wesley realized that these people had a "Jesus in the boat" kind of peace. Their roots were so deep in the Spirit that the external storm couldn't touch their internal calm. They weren't just "Rising Strong"; they were **Singing Strong** in the middle of a shipwreck.

## The Result

This encounter humbled Wesley. It led him to realize that he didn't truly know God's peace. He eventually returned to London, sought out the faith those Moravians had, and experienced his famous "heart-warming" moment at Aldersgate Street. This sparked the Methodist movement, which transformed millions of lives.

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John Wesley



Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

"I build on Christ, the rock of ages; on his sure mercies described in his word, and on his promises, all which I know are yea and amen."

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JOHN WESLEY





**Conclusion.**

**Unshaken faith in every season.**

When storms come:

- Jeremiah says: Stay rooted.
- Isaiah says: God is with you.
- Jesus says: Build on the rock.
- Mark says: Jesus calms storms.

**Storms don't shape your destiny—your faith does.**

Respond in three ways:

**1. For those in a storm**

Pray Isaiah 43:2 over them.

**2. For those needing deeper roots**

Pray Jeremiah 17:7-8.

**3. For those needing peace**

Declare "Peace, be still" over their hearts.

*Goals*

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*To Do*

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