

Gospel Lesson for the Week

June 1, 2008

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Please read

[Matthew 7:21-29](#)

Read also

[Genesis 6:11-22](#)

[Genesis 7:24](#)

[Genesis 8:14-19](#)

[Psalm 46](#)

[Romans 1:16-17](#)

[Romans 3:22b-28](#)

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?' Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.'

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.

And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell--and great was its fall!"

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Storm Warning

Viewing the daily news,
I've come to see how powerless I am
in the face of nature's whims:
Hurricane! Tornado! Earthquake!
All these give witness
to the power of forces
outside myself,

things I cannot control.
And more disturbing still:
the knowledge that
I am no better equipped
to endure the soul-storms
that assault my spirit day by day.

No ritual prattling
of “Lord, Lord, Lord,”
no self-justifying recital
of good deeds
will fortify or shield me.
Still there is hope.

Since I cannot bend the winds
to my desire,
I must look within.
And find there,
the power to control myself,
that is to say,
not in myself alone.
My sure foundation
is found in the words
of one who stilled the storm,
the One whose word is Truth.

Thus, anchored rock-solid
in his words, his Word,
in *Him*, the Word,
I can weather each storm.
I can endure each struggle.
I can withstand every onslaught
whether within or without.
I can do all things through Christ
who strengthens me.

*No wonder they marveled at his words,
spoken with such authority.*