



SUDDEN STORMS!

By Mary Mayko

John 6:16-21 v.20 “But He (Jesus) saith unto them, ‘It is I, be not afraid.’”

Sudden storms! In the summertime they often rise up without warnings, and if you don’t take shelter you can put your life at risk! The Bible gives warnings about many dangers in life! A wise person will take heed to the signs around them!

When the weather is beautiful and warm, people like to take a trip to enjoy God’s Creation! It is very relaxing to drive down a country road and see how tranquil everything seems to be! A boat ride can be exciting and refreshing! But things aren’t always as they seem to be!

Jesus’ disciples got a little impatient one night while waiting for Him to come back from a time alone on a mountain top. Although it was already dark, they got into their boat and headed out across the lake! After they rowed 3 or 4 miles out, a sudden storm caused rough water, and they felt the dangers it presented! If *that fear* wasn’t enough, they were *terrified* by a figure walking on the water toward them! They thought they were seeing a ghost! Can you imagine being in *that boat* on that dark and stormy night?

I have been on a boat in rough seas, and believe me, *it is very frightening!* The one who pilots the boat has to remain calm or the people on board as well as the craft can be suddenly lost! I had memorized all the compass points, and although it was storming so badly you could not see anything, with God’s help I was able to keep the boat on the proper course and we got back into the inlet without injury or loss! How important it is to have some Bible verses memorized so in times of dangers they can encourage our spirit and calm our minds! *

The disciples were calmed down immediately when they heard the Voice of Jesus saying, “It is I, be not afraid!” When we go through the darkest nights or storms that suddenly threaten us, as soon as we *hear the Voice of our LORD*, we are able to keep panic away! Summer trips are common for many people. Making sure you have with you items needed for emergencies is a very wise thing! The Bible teaches is to be alert and to be prepared!

When we start on our spiritual walk with the LORD, there is excitement and encouragement from others, but at some point in our walk, we will suddenly seem to be all alone! The path we are on is not familiar! It seems dark and dangerous! At this point we need some of those verses! Isaiah 42:16 “I will lead them in paths they have not known.” When we are in a “blind place”, pause and look for the Lord! He will come walking to you on your stormy waves to bring peace to your soul! We have His Promise that He will never leave nor forsake us!

Heb.13:5 b “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

*True story! 1974. M. Mayko www.momentswithmary.org.

“GOD’S COMFORT”

By Mary Mayko



Isaiah 61:1-3 LB “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the suffering and afflicted. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted, to announce liberty to captives and to open the eyes of the blind. He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of God’s favor to them has come, and the day of His wrath to their enemies. To all who mourn in Israel He will give: Beauty for ashes; Joy instead of mourning; Praise instead of heaviness. For God has planted them like strong and graceful oaks for his own glory.”

The Lord wants to bring His comfort to you in a special way. He can take all your brokenness and bring beauty and new life out of the ashes. He is concerned about every detail of our life! His Word provides insight and encouragement to comfort us in our times of loss. Life really does continue after our losses, but it changes us from the inside out!

What kind of life will you have after those hurts? If we are not careful, we can stay in the midst of our rejections, heartaches and anger for many years, unless we choose to let God ease our pain with His loving comfort! The loss of a spouse through death or divorce is especially difficult! It forces a lifestyle change without your permission! You may even feel unqualified to handle life’s many decisions and responsibilities!

Let the storms of life run their course and allow the wounded heart to heal! The scars we receive through those storms prove we are still holding on to Jesus! We are survivors! People admire true survivors! Their stories are often portrayed in the News Media. They encourage others who are going through hard places in their lives! We all need a ray of hope! If others make it, well, we can too! The peace and comfort God gives reveals His strength and hopefully motivates others to seek Him!

God's peace brings a sense of security to our souls! We find comfort in Scriptures. It helps to write your comfort prayers.

Psalm 61:1-3 "Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the ends of the earth will I cry unto Thee. When my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the Rock that is higher than I; for Thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy."

“TOO HOT TO HANDLE!”

Rev. J K Golding

Proverbs 21:23 “Who so keepeth his mouth, and his tongue, keepeth his soul from troubles.”

Hazy, hot, and humid, perfectly describes July on the East coast! It is no longer inviting or fun to be outdoors, in fact, it can be dangerous!



The flowers that welcomed the spring sunshine are now drooping in it. The lovely green grass has turned brown and crackles beneath our feet. Along with this rise in temperature comes a rise in our tempers! People are hot, irritated and aggravated. Roads leading to cooler places like the shore or the mountains become clogged with traffic and cars overheat adding to the turmoil. Nerves give way to temper! The elderly and children feel the heat to a great extent and try the patience of those around them.

Unintentionally, I recently had a problem that brought this month’s devotional about. With all my heart, I wanted to defend “myself”, explain my position in the matter, and just plain “explode!” Praise the Lord, I bit my tongue and held back for two reasons;

1. My Christian witness to them.
2. A verse of Scripture that I try very hard to live by: “Where there is no wood the fire goeth out.” (The rest of it is; “so where there is no talebearer [gossip] the strife ceaseth.”) Proverbs 26:20

Think about that verse, every time we try to justify ourselves or defend ourselves, it’s like putting a piece of wood on the fire. Then the other person makes a statement, [another piece of wood!] and soon we have an “out of control” fire!

“But I was RIGHT!” Have you ever said that? And, maybe you were, but when the fire is raging out of control, what difference does it make?

I was so upset over the incident I mentioned above, I bit my tongue so hard it hurt! I spent the next couple of days looking a Scripture concerning our tongue, and anger for a Christian. In the next weeks of summer, while the thermometer is going up, and tempers are rising along with it, these Scriptures will help to “cool” you down, keep your testimony pure, and your “garments” clean. Consider them carefully and tuck them in your heart for the next “hot” moment!

1. **“Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.” [Dishonesty] Psalm 34:13**
2. **“He that keepeth his mouth, keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.” Proverbs 13:3**
3. **“And He [Jesus] called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.” Matt. 15:10-11**
4. **“If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain.” James 1:26**
5. **“He that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile.” 1 Peter 3:10**
6. **“As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious to kindle strife.” Proverbs 26:21**

Hazy, hot and humid weather, is not only uncomfortable and dangerous, it is trying on the nerves, day in and day out! The devil can use it to his benefit, if we are not on guard. When the situation is HOT! DON’T HANDLE IT!

In closing, I would like to refresh your heart and mind with words of wisdom from James 3:3-13

“Behold, we put bits in the horses’ mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor [captain] listeth. Even so, the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth!” And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: [sin] so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature, and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith we bless God, even the father: And therewith, curse we men which are made after the similitude [likeness] of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear alive berries? Either a vine figs? So can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. Who is a wise man and endued [equipped] with knowledge among you? Let him show out of a good conversation [MANNER OF LIFE] his works with MEEKNESS of wisdom.”

Keep “COOL” as you walk with Him!

Rev. J Kehl Golding