



June 2008

Salt & Light

May 22nd, 2008....That's the day that everything changed. More precisely....11:57am. It was the last day of school in Windsor and more importantly the day that a devastating tornado would bear down on our community. The hardest hit area of Windsor turned out to be our own Cornerstone community. Countless stories are now being told and retold of God's miraculous deliverance in the midst of the storm. I hope that we will be able to write down many of the stories in order to forever chronicle what happened in Windsor on May 22nd and the days following. A great book to read in a time like this is Jerry Bridges', Trusting God Even When Life Hurts. Last Sunday's message was drawn heavily from Jerry's understanding of the Scriptures.

I shared on the Sunday following the storm that there are three essential truths about God that will sustain us as we move forward from the piles of debris that have now become our landmarks.

#1 God is completely sovereign! The prophet Jeremiah declares, *"Who can speak and have it happen if the Lord has not decreed it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both calamities and good things come?"* (Lamentations 3:37-38). God could have stopped the storm before it was even a gentle breeze and yet, He in full control, allowed the tornado to develop.

#2 God is infinite in wisdom! Listen to Paul's description of God's wisdom, *"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!"* (Romans 11:33). Say this out-loud, "God NEVER says 'oops'". He's got a plan and He will accomplish His plan. Rest in the fact that God knows what He is doing.

#3 God is perfect in love! This is my favorite part. Whatever God does or doesn't do--He does it with our best interest at heart. He loves us enough to sacrifice Jesus. He does nothing except from a motive of love. Listen to Jesus' description of the way that God values us. *"Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows"* (Matthew 10:29-31). Never will a sparrow fall or a tornado form without the Father's involvement and care.

We have seen the Father's hand in so many ways--in the way in which people escaped from their glass-strewn homes bare-foot without a cut or scrape, and in the way that religious pictures and objects survived unharmed with destruction all around. One of the compelling indications of the Father's control and care can be seen in the Psalm given in the One Year Bible for May 22nd.

"I thank you for answering my prayer and saving me! The stone rejected by the builders has now become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous to see. This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Please, Lord, please save us . . ." (Psalm 118:21-25).

Jon Olson said that one of the positives of the tornado is the fact that the fences are all gone. We're meeting our neighbors as we clean up our yards together. Let's make sure that we maintain these relationships. God has opened a wide door of ministry for us through the tornado. Let's walk through it while the door remains open. *"Open for me the gates where the righteous enter, and I will go in and thank the Lord. Those gates lead to the presence of the Lord, and the godly enter there"* (Psalm 118:19-20).

Equipping the Saints!

Pastor Dave Samples