



A Response Like You Cannot Imagine

Acts 2:37-41

Listen! How would you rescue five men who were being tossed around like rag dolls by forty foot seas and 80 mile an hour winds—men in the violent, merciless grip of “The Perfect Storm”? The process must go just right.

Why are we talking about this? You and I and everyone alive, all of us, live in a world that is in the grip of “The Perfect Spiritual Storm.” We all need rescue from the violent, merciless grip of this spiritual monster. Consider the evidence for the storm:

The Central Truth: If someone is to be rescued from the perfect spiritual storm the process of rescue must go just right:

1. They must know some foundational facts about Jesus Christ—hear His identity and His claims. (vv 14-36.)
2. They must give mental ascent to those facts—accept them as true.
3. They must receive those facts at the heart level—let them pierce to the middle of who they are. (v 37)
4. They must repent—change their mind about four things (v 38):
 - About God:
 - About Jesus:
 - About sin:
 - About dead works:
5. They must put their trust in Jesus Christ—hope in Him alone for forgiveness of their sins. (Acts 20:21)
 - Corollary reality: they receive the Holy Spirit. (Rom 8:9 and 1 Cor 12:13)
6. Having thus been rescued God expects them to be baptized—to identify with Christ. (v 41)

Core Applications: The promise of rescue is for everyone, even for those who are “far off.”

1. If you are “far off” from God, do not despair—His offer of rescue is for you too.
2. If you know someone who is “far off” from God, do not give up—His power can reach them too.

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk this week.

The Central Idea: Rescue from the “Perfect Spiritual Storm” is accomplished by Jesus Christ and requires faith from us.

Following Christ is a daily deal. Please take some time each day this week to think through these questions and ideas:

- **Today.** What do you think are the five most important facts about Jesus Christ? What do these facts mean for your life?
- **Monday.** Can you point to a time when you made a “heart level” response to Jesus Christ—trusted Him at the core of who you are for forgiveness?
- **Tuesday.** Have you changed your mind (repented) about: God the Father, Jesus the Son, your sin, and your attempts to please God by working?
- **Wednesday.** Have you identified with Jesus Christ by being baptized after you put your faith in Him?
- **Thursday.** Have you identified with Jesus Christ in your “places”? Home and family? Workplace and coworkers? Neighborhood and friends? With strangers?
- **Friday.** Have you identified with Jesus Christ in His Kingdom, His agenda, His plan, His righteousness, and His commands? In other words, are you recognizable as a sold-out, no compromise, and deeply infected follower of Jesus Christ?
- **Saturday.** Please read Acts 2:42-47 and write the main idea in a single sentence.

“In a storm like the one we are in, no one short of Jesus can pull us out.”