

## Storms

Scripture: Mark 8:27-30

Date: February 27, 2021

Message:

*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me....  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation.*

*Psalm 51:10, 15*

Storms, especially thunderstorms in the spring, have always held a fascination for me. Their intensity and violence are as awesome as the relief and refreshment that follow them. While gathering debris left in our yard by the ravages of a recent storm, I was struck by the similarities of our own changing lives with that of a thunderstorm. As I loaded limbs, leaves, and litter into a box headed for the compost pile, I thought about all the things in my life that need to be tossed out as well. Aren't there attitudes, grudges, and behaviors that need to be trashed and replaced with more positive actions? Aren't there wrongs that need to be righted and words of forgiveness spoken? How many times do we hear the thunder of voices coming at us from all directions, urging us to follow a path we know will only lead to trouble? How many days are we blinded by the emotions of an argument, which like the drenching rain, cloud our decisions about how to treat our neighbors or how to spend our time? How many times have fears kept us from living life to the fullest?

As we take time to ponder our days and our lives during this season of Lent, may this be our prayer:

Prayer: *Dear Heavenly Father, we ask you to allow these storms of life to wash away those things which make our vision foggy and our judgement cloudy. Direct the winds carry away those bad habits and behaviors which keep us from making clear-cut choices about who we are and whose we are. When lightning flashes, shed a glorious light on our ordinary lives so that we may see the path to you more clearly. Help the rain soften our hearts and make us instruments of thy peace. As the sun breaks through, may we be found rejoicing over the newness you offer us each new day. Amen.*

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