

20261004 EVELEIGH CHURCH TOMMY PENDERGEST ITS ALWAYS SOMETHING AND ITS NEVER EASY

I don't know the circumstances in your life. I don't know what you deal with day to day. I don't know what you struggle with day to day.

I don't know what stops you. I don't know. I don't know.

In ministry, a lot of times I sit with my wife and we discuss situations and problems and we discuss people's lives because I want to appropriately pray for them. And even in the depths of that, I don't know sometimes the right way to pray. So there are some struggles.

And I'm going to tell you this. If it helps you out any, let me say it this way. I don't graciously bounce in and out of my own trials and tribulations.

I'm not very good at it. Okay. It's not from lack of effort.

I want to be good at it. But I'm just going to tell you, I'm a sore loser. All my life I was taught, show me a gracious loser, show me a good loser, and I'll show you a loser.

That's what I was taught. All my life it was competitive sports. We competed in everything.

So to lose is just not good. And honestly, we as Christians, we want easy, right? We want easy. I'm tired of fighting, I'm tired of struggling, I'm tired of battling day in and day out.

There's always something. Always something. And if you're thinking to yourself, well, Brother Tommy, there's not always something.

Trust me, there is always something. It may not be right on top of you in your life, but it's in your family. There's always something going on.

And listen, if you're not worn out, you ought to be. And what we want, we want easy, right? What we want is our interpretation of Matthew chapter 11, verses 28 through 30, where Jesus, He actually reproaches those who are unrepentant. And He says to us, listen, He says, Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my load is light. And we want this because we immediately go to this concept of two oxen yoked together.

And we look at it and we think, Okay, I'm the little ox right here with no power, no ability or nothing. And Jesus is the big, stout, strong ox. And He just drags me along through everything.

And as long as He's dragging me along, I'll be fine because He's carrying the load. And that's what we want. But that's not exactly what that means when He says His yoke is light.

Not exactly. Because what He's talking about, when He talks about a yoke, a rabbi would have a yoke as his requirement. It's what the requirement is to follow me.

And the Pharisees and the teachers and the scribes, their yoke was very difficult because there was all these rules and regulations and all this junk that they would pile on people that was literally impossible to keep. They would pile it on and pile it on and pile it on and pile it on because they thought salvation came through religious activity. So they piled it on and piled it on and piled it on and piled it on and piled it on and nobody could keep it.

And it just made it more and more miserable every day. So Jesus comes along and Jesus says, Listen, it's not that difficult. If you will just love the Lord your God and love your neighbor as yourself, you'll figure it out along the way.

And it's that easy. And that's His yoke. But you know what we do? We are so stupid.

Brother Tommy, you can't say stupid. Yeah, I can. I just did.

We are so stupid that we pile a bunch of junk on it. We make it more difficult. I don't know why, but we do.

I don't know what we're even thinking. They had such a heavy, complicated system and Jesus said it's not that hard. He said it's not about your performance, it's about grace.

It's about understanding your identity that you are a child of the Most High God. If God has called you and you have said yes and you believe and you trust and you have surrendered to Christ and you are a child of the Most High God and if you are a child of the Most High God you can mess it all up this week and God doesn't say, Oh my gosh, Tommy screwed it all up. I don't love him anymore.

God says, Oh my gosh, I saw that coming and I still love you. Obedience to Christ cannot be driven by obligation. If it's driven by obligation, it's still about your performance and if your performance is what saves you, then your lack of performance.

Obedience to Christ is driven by a desire. It's driven by a love for a master that would sacrifice everything for me. I'm not obligated to serve him.

I serve because I want to. So because of his love for me, there's no burden. You see, the yoke is light because there's no burden put upon me.

Does he indeed yoke himself to us? Yeah, he does. And when the burden gets heavy and when it gets to be a struggle and when it's a battle, does he drag me along? Sure he does. Because if he didn't, I wouldn't make it.

But that's not the whole purpose of it. The purpose of it is for us to understand that it's through the

power of his love that he carries us. So the trials that we go through are very important.

And we're in Luke. I know I was in Matthew a minute ago, but we're in Luke. We're still in Chapter 8, and we'll get through Chapter 8 maybe this year.

Verse 22 says, Now it came about on one of those days that he and his disciples got into a boat and he said to them, Let us go over to the other side of the lake. And they launched out. But as they were sailing along, he fell asleep.

And a fierce gale of wind descended upon the lake and they began to be swamped and to be in danger. And they came to him, woke him up, saying, Master, Master, we are perishing. And he, being aroused, rebuked the wind and the surging waves and it just stopped.

It all became calm. And he said to them, Where is your faith? And they were fearful and amazed, saying to one another, Who then is this that he commands even the winds and the water? And they obeyed him. You see, the trials are important because God wants us to trust Him in the trials.

And I'm going to tell you something that's going to shock the life out of you. God often puts us in the trials. And God knows the outcome of the trials.

And God grows our faith in the trials. You are not where you're at by accident. Please understand that.

You are not where you're at by accident. This is a part of God's plan for your life. Now, you might be thinking right now, Well, Brother Tommy, I don't really like God's plan.

That's great because there's days I don't like God's plan. There are days that I look up and say, Is this what you've got for me today? Is this what I've got to deal with? Is this what's going on? And there are days that He looks at me and He reminds me that His grace is sufficient for whatever it is I'm dealing with. In today's Scripture, we see a miracle.

This is just a flat-out, downright miracle. They get in the boat. They launch out to go to the other side of the sea.

There's a strong wind that comes. They begin to take on water. The waves are big.

They're taking on water. The Sea of Galilee they're going across. It's 13 miles long, 7 miles wide.

It's a pretty good journey across. They're not going to do it in 5 minutes. They're not in a motorboat.

On either side, there's a mountain on either side. The Sea of Galilee is literally 700 feet below sea level. The mountains are 2,000 feet above sea level, so it's 2,700 feet.

The winds come down like this, and out of nowhere at any particular time, a massive windstorm can hit that lake. And when it comes, it comes hard. It comes quick.

It's unannounced, and there's fierce consequences. Nobody, not a single person on the boats, and I use the word boats. Go to Mark and read this story.

Not a single person had a weather app. Nobody knew it was coming except for one. And the one person that knew it was coming took a nap.

He went to sleep. He was probably tired. It doesn't record much in the Gospels.

It doesn't record much that Jesus slept. I mean, he served all day, and he worked all day, and he did all day, and he ministered all day, and he healed all day, and then he would go off in the evening, and he would pray all night. And while everybody else fell asleep on him, he just kept on praying.

So I don't know how much he actually slept, so I'm sure he was tired. I'm sure he was worn out. So they got in the boat, and they started to cross, and he took a nap.

And they woke him up, and he just calms the storm. He just rebukes the wind, and he rebukes the surging waves, and everything just stops immediately. And he says, Where's your faith? And they respond, Who then is this? So I'm going to tell you something this morning, church, and you can write this down if you don't get nothing else out of today's message, if this is all you get.

Who Jesus is to you will determine how your boat ride goes. Who Jesus is to you will determine how your boat ride goes. I want to explore this today.

Because I want you to ask this question, Who is Jesus to you? Because I'm going to tell you right now, it does not matter who Jesus is to me in your situation. I can tell you who He is to me. I can tell you what He's done for me.

I can tell you all about Him. I can tell you everything I know about Him, and I know a lot about Him. I've been studying Him for twenty-something years now.

I know a lot about Him. And I can tell you all the things I know. But it's probably not going to matter in the middle of your mess.

It only matters who He is to you. And who He is to you, honestly, is a question that needs to be asked. Who is He? And the clear answer is the simple answer.

If you haven't started taking notes, you're going to want to start now. The first thing you need to write down is that Jesus is Lord of all. The Bible records in Matthew chapter 28 that all authority has been given unto Him.

If all authority has truly been given unto Him, then He's Lord of all. In John chapter 1, verse 1, the Word of God begins, and the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him, nothing came into being that has come into being. If you are the creator of the entire world and everything in it, if you are the creator of every bit of this, why does it seem so odd that He could just stop the wind and stop the waves? This is not something... This should not surprise us. This is something we should look at and say, well, of course He did.

Why wouldn't He? To be the Lord of something means you have authority over it. If He is the Lord of your life, then He has authority over you. It means that somewhere, somehow, you've yielded.

You've surrendered your life to Him. And in that, you recognize that the Son of God has authority over you, which means you do not any longer have authority over yourself. Now, I want you to know this, because this is going to probably shock some of you.

If He created all things, He also created you. And if He has authority over all things and He created you, whether you believe in Him and trust in Him or not, He still has authority over you. What does that mean? It means He can do whatever He wants to do.

It means He has authority over those who have surrendered as well as those who refuse to surrender. Telling the wind to stop blowing is no big deal for the Son of God. But to a group of disciples who are still learning, who are still trying to figure out who He is, who are still trying to put all this together, this is an amazing miracle that they can't even comprehend.

It's a big deal. You see, we want to submit and we want to call Him Lord, but we really don't want Him to be our Lord. Because we don't want to trust Him as our Lord.

We don't want to trust Him in our practical daily situations. We don't want to trust Him in everything. We don't want to turn it over and just yield to Him.

We really, really, really don't want to trust Him in our circumstances because our circumstances are difficult, our circumstances are challenging, they're hard, they're a mess. We don't want to trust Him to just take care of the mess. We want to fix it ourselves.

So rather than ask Him for help, we would rather just blame Him or accuse Him. Or even worse than that, we dismiss Him, well, that's life. When everything falls apart all around us and the whole thing is chaos and it's a mess and we don't know whether to get up, we don't know whether to go to bed, we don't know what to do.

Can't sleep, can't do nothing. My complete life is just a disaster all around me. Rather than looking up in God and saying, you got this, we just want to say, well, that's life.

That's just how it works sometimes. That's how it goes. We don't want to recognize why it's going that way.

We act like God doesn't have time for my mess. So the Lord's kind enough to do for us what He did for the disciples. Church, God is kind enough to lead you into the storm.

Oh, Brother Tommy, no, no, no, no, no. God doesn't do such things. Oh, yes, yes, yes, He does.

He looked at them and He said, let us go to the other side. Let us go to the other side. And they got in the boat and they launched out.

The Word says, they launched out and they started from there to go to the other side. He led them exactly where He wanted them to go. He led them exactly into the middle of the lake.

He led them exactly into the storm. He led them exactly where He wanted them because He wanted them to wake up and He wanted them to be in a gome. He wanted them to be in a mess and be in trouble.

You love the word gome. So that they would wake up and they would say, Lord, I need you! Was he unaware? We say, well, you know, he didn't know a storm was coming. Well, he reads the thoughts in the Pharisees' minds.

He reads the thoughts in Peter's mind. He knows what they're going to say before they say it. In fact, the Word of God says he answers the questions that they were thinking.

They didn't even have to speak the question out loud, he just answers it. If he knows the answer to the question they're thinking, does he not know that a storm is coming? We act like all of a sudden the mess in our life, not only did it catch us by surprise, it caught Jesus by surprise. Lord, I don't know what happened, did you see this coming? And then we get mad, listen, then we get all tore up and we get mad.

Why didn't you warn me? Where were you at? Why didn't you warn me that the mess was coming? Lord, why didn't you tell me this was coming? You were asleep! You took a nap in the middle of my mess! When it's raining outside, people call me at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and the first thing they say is, were you asleep? Are you kidding me? If it's raining at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, I'm asleep. You don't have to call and check. I promise you, he knew the storm was coming.

And the storm hit sudden and it was violent. And the disciples, they didn't expect it. They didn't know.

And the storm was incredible. These are seasoned fishermen, not all of them, but about half of them are seasoned fishermen. And they've been fishing on this lake their entire life since they were little boys.

They've been fishing on this lake. They've seen storms hit. They knew there was a possibility of a storm.

They've seen them hit. But nothing like this storm. Nothing like this mess.

Nothing's hit like this because they were afraid. And they have maneuvered and they have, listen, they have dealt with this their entire life. They were afraid.

All of a sudden, they were in need. And as awful as it was and as bad as it was and as big a mess as the storm was, the sovereign Lord led them directly into the mess. When serious trials hit our lives, we often dismiss it and say, well, God didn't cause it to happen.

He just allowed it to happen. It's like we want to get God off the hook, right? Surely to goodness God wouldn't cause everything to fall apart in my life even if Tommy's been praying that he will. Surely he wouldn't do such a thing.

So then we get God off the hook and then we blame Satan thinking that, listen, we rank somewhere up there with Job, right? Because Job is righteous. We're not. Let's get that out of the way first of all.

So we think we rank up there with Job and that Satan has come and he walked up to God and God looked at Satan and he said, have you considered my servant Tommy? And Satan just laughs. No, that didn't cross my mind. There's no reason that Satan wants to come and attack me.

There's not enough there to attack. But God would like to grow me. God would like to see me develop into what he wants me to be.

So you know what God does? God says, watch this. I want to see where his faith is going. I want to see where his trust is going.

I want to see where he's going. I want to see him grow. I want to see him grow.

And the best place for him to grow is in the middle of the valley, in the middle of the storm. That's where I want to see him grow. Well surely to goodness, listen, surely to goodness God wouldn't do that.

We're so intent on preserving God's love that we do it at the expense of his sovereignty. Yet in Isaiah 45 verses 6 to 7 the word of God says, I am the Lord and there is no other. The one forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity.

I am the Lord who does all these. Church, I'm going to tell you this morning, comfort is found in the fact that God is sovereign over the storm. And we find that comfort when we trust in his sovereignty and his unfailing love.

So now I want to talk to you a little bit about the storm that you're in. If you compare your storm with this storm, this is how my storms go. It hits sudden and without warning.

Have you ever been there? Man, I have been in some things and I have seen some things that hit so sudden and so hard and so fast and there was no answer, there was no way out, there was nothing. I didn't know what to do, I didn't know what to say, I didn't know nothing. The storm hit so hard and so fast and all I could do was hit my knees because I did not have any answer to anything.

And when I came up off my knees I still didn't have an answer. That's the kind of storm that hit on them in the middle of the sea. All hope collapsed around them.

All they knew to do was to cry out to him. Another feature of this storm, it hit believers. It hit those that were walking with, or in this moment, riding with Jesus.

Right in the middle of the sea. Man, it hit their boat. In Mark 4.36, Mark records there were other boats with them.

But I need you to understand, Christians aren't exempt from trials. And the fact that we believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior may be putting us in more trials. The third thing, it hit obedient believers.

They were obedient. He said, let's go to the other side and they climbed in the boat with him. They didn't say, hey, you go on ahead and I'll walk around.

They did exactly what he asked them to do. They were very, very, very obedient to his words. They did exactly, they didn't fudge.

They got in the boat and away they went. And listen, it was not what they were expecting. The fact of the matter is, it didn't hit because of their lack of obedience.

It hit as a direct result of their obedience. They had committed their lives to him. They had left everything.

And they found themselves in the middle of a life-threatening storm. Most of the storms in my life have hit right after I've taken another step of obedience. Right after I say yes, Lord, to whatever he wants me to do, another trial hits or something just goes wrong.

Every time that I commit to do some kind of ministry or commit to do something to get out of the box, to do something else for the Lord, when I say yes, Lord, when someone calls and I say yes, Lord, every single time something hits. Well, Lord, the Lord ain't doing nothing to me. Well, you don't have to because you don't want to grow.

What's really scary in this situation, it seemed like Jesus took a break. He just took a nap. It just

blows me away.

He knew the storm was coming. He didn't warn them. He didn't tell them to get prepared.

He could have looked at them and said, listen, when you get three miles out, a storm is going to hit. And it's going to be the most devastating thing that you've ever seen in your life. It's going to tear your life apart.

You're not going to know what to do, how to respond. You're not going to know what to say. He could have warned them.

Have you ever been in the middle of a storm and you screamed out, help me, Lord? Have you ever screamed out, Lord, where are you? I have. The good news is he was right in the middle of the storm with them. He didn't leave the boat and go somewhere else and show back up when it was time to calm the storm.

He was right in the middle of the storm with them. He patiently slept, waiting for them to reach a point of need. He patiently slept, waiting for that great need in their lives when they would call out to him.

You know what we do? We rely on our own understanding until the need finally becomes overwhelming. That's what we do. We're so bad at it.

Man, I got this. I got this. And the storm gets more and more and more overwhelming to the point that we throw our hands up and say, Lord, I ain't got this.

Can you please, please help me? If the storm starts out, if we would just say, Lord, can you please help me? Everyone who has a genuine faith has one thing in common. They recognize their need. Jesus is going to let the storm rage until you recognize your need.

Not your need to get out of the storm, but your need for a Savior and a Lord to rescue you. Not once, but forever. And when the storm gets so bad, and the mess gets too big, and the waves crash down and the wind begins to capsize the boat, and you remember you can't swim very well, and you don't float, and you ain't got a life jacket, and you look over and the Lord of Lords is sitting right there in the boat.

He's never left you, and He has never left you alone in the storm. He just wants you to call out to Him. He wants you to say, Master, Master, we are perishing.

Our church has faced a lot of storms since I've been here. But I believe that God is wanting to do something big here. That's why we're in the storm.

And I believe He has to get the core of this church to surrender. And when the core surrenders, that includes me, it's going to get big. Which brings us to our second point.

We must trust Jesus as our Lord in the storms of life. In Luke 8.25, Jesus asks, Where is your faith? Not only does He rebuke the wind and rebuke the storm, He rebukes their lack of faith. You see, the storms expose our lack of trust in the Lord.

You can fake it in calm waters. You sure can. I mean, they had been in lesser storms, and they had done quite well with them.

They had. But this one was big. At first, they probably tried really hard to maneuver the boat, and to kind of push and pull and work things the right way.

I mean, they'd been in storms before, right? And in those little storms, Jesus wasn't riding in the boat with them, and they just maneuvered around, they got back safely to shore, and it was okay. I mean, after all, they were experienced. They were experienced fishermen that had been out on this lake fishing their entire life.

They had been in storms before. They had gotten accustomed to maneuvering in the storms. They had gotten accustomed to dealing with it.

Listen, they had this. One of our biggest problems is it's shifting our trust and faith to someone and not to God. We say things about, like, listen, it's like, what if they don't receive the message? What if they refuse the Lord? Without realizing it, we as Christians, we have this terrible problem of putting our faith in a person.

We put our faith in a person's response. What if I witness to them and they don't respond with a yes, what if? We lack faith because we refuse to make God the sovereign king of the universe and the sovereign king of our hearts. What if I witness to someone and tell them about Jesus, and God calls them unto himself, and they hear the call of God.

They hear the Holy Spirit in their heart, and they respond with yes. What if that happens? We refuse to trust God to save people. Man, that kills me.

Because here's the problem. This is what you need to understand. I can't save anybody.

I don't have the ability. I didn't die for anybody. But God can.

And honestly, God can save who God wants to save. You just got to trust him. And we say, well, I got to say yes to his offer.

Yeah, you do. You have to say yes to his offer. But we make way too much about the yes.

Think about this for a minute. If he led them out into the Sea of Galilee, into the middle of the sea, to the worst storm that they had ever been experienced in their life, the worst storm they had ever seen, and he leads them out in the middle of that storm, why do you think he put them right there? So that in their moment of greatest need, they could say, I got this. Yet in their moment of

greatest need, every one of them was crying out, help me, Lord.

Oh, gee. Let's do the math. Can God put me in a storm where I cry out to him? The Word of God teaches right here that he can.

Will he? That's the next question. Will he? The Word of God teaches right here that he does. Can God get someone's attention? Well, if God can calm the wind and calm the storm, and he's creator of all things, and he created you, I believe he can calm your storm, he can calm your wind, and he can get your attention.

The only thing that you bring to your salvation is your sin and your yes. And mostly what you bring is your sin. Because at the moment that you recognize your need for the Son of God in your life, your yes has already been spoken in your heart.

You're already there. At this point in the event of Luke 8, verse 22 through 25, those closest to him did not even recognize him as the sovereign Lord. They were terrified even though he was in the boat.

They were concerned for their own lives. And storms will often reveal a self-centered and self-focused life. We have this terrible problem putting on a front about our concern for others and our concern for this and that until we realize how much it's going to cost us.

When we realize the cost and we find ourselves in the storm, we oftentimes have our own pity party, right? I do. I don't know about you all. I won't speak for you.

I do. And I have it way too often. We run around and we seek the cause.

Lord, why does this happen to me? Lord, why is this happening? Lord, what did I do wrong? What's going on? Or we seek the solution. Well, maybe if I did this, God would reward me. Or if I did this, God would bless me.

If I said this or did this or if I acted this way, God would treat me differently. We want to find a solution. The problem is we do not look for God's purpose in the storm.

God doesn't want you to try to earn your way to him. God wants you to surrender because he is Lord of the storm in your life. And if the waves and the wind obey his voice and if the demons and the demonics shudder in fear at his presence, what makes you think that you've got the power to refuse his will and purpose in your life? Church, we think way too highly of ourselves.

And we do not esteem the Lord to the height that he so richly deserves. We panic in the storm. We panic in the storm with what if.

That's what we panic with. We simply panic with what if. Yet God is the God of if.

In 2 Chronicles 7, he says, If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the

locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people, and my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. I'm going to let you guys in on this. I've got a degree in English from one of the best colleges in the United States.

The word if means, if you do it, then this is how God is going to react. If you don't do it, then he's going to react in the opposite. That's pretty simple.

So to the million dollar question that everybody wants to know, does my prayer change God's mind? No, it don't change God's mind. But it does determine what he's going to do in the next five minutes. He's waiting on you to call on him.

He's waiting on you to pray. He's waiting on you to keep praying. Will God keep saying no or I keep praying? Why do I keep praying? I don't know.

Maybe one day he'll say yes. Maybe at some point in time, if I pray 100 times the same prayer on 101, God's going to say, that's what I was waiting for was 101. I wanted you to be persistent, so you said it 101 times.

I'm going to do it now. Just pray. Seek his will.

Ask him to move miraculously in your life. Ask him to take the storm and turn the storm around. Ask him to show you why the storm is there.

Ask him to show you the purpose. Ask him to help you walk in the path that you need to walk in. Just pray.

If you've got a lost loved one, listen, if you've got a lost loved one, you should wake up with their name on your lips. Lord, I need you to reach them. I need you to send somebody.

I need you to do something. Lord, I have tried, and tried, and tried, and tried, and tried, and tried, and tried, and tried, and tried, and tried, and tried, and tried. I've been 101, and they still don't answer.

Can you please send somebody? Anybody. That's the kind of passion we need to have. And when we trust him that he can do it and that he will do it, he's... Tommy, I've been waiting on that.

I've been waiting on you to surrender. I've been waiting on you to tell me you trust me to do it. If you would just trust me, I'll take care of your problem.

I love how God answers my prayers. A lot of times he says yes. He really does.

You guys cut up and joke about it. A lot of times he just simply says yes when I ask him. It's really neat.

I really like it. And then sometimes he just flat out says no. I mean he's slick up, flat out, says no.

He's got something better in the no than I think the yes is going to bring. That's just submitting to his will. That's just saying, Lord, in my heart this is what I want to see, but you know better than me.

And you know what he does? Sometimes he just says wait. I love when my kids come to me running in. I'm in a conversation with somebody and they come running in.

I'm like, just wait a second. Just wait. God says, listen, just wait a minute.

I am busy right here. Just give me a second. And then he turns around and says, okay, did you have something? Yeah, Lord, I need you.

He says, it's okay. I've always been in the boat with you. I didn't leave you.

Peace is found in just trusting in the sovereign king who literally has authority over every storm in your life. Peace is not found in the what if. It's found in if.

If you trust him and you call out to him, the sovereign king is going to answer. I have spent most of my life, as Jenny comes this morning, praise team comes, I have spent most of my life in some kind of storm. Honestly, and I mean I'll just be as honest as I can, I'm pretty sure most of my storms were self-inflicted.

I really am. I think most of the messes that I've dealt with, the storms that I've dealt with in my life, I think they were self-inflicted. But the really, really bad ones, the really, really hard ones, they weren't self-inflicted.

The really, really bad storms, the really, really hard things to deal with, the things that caused me to crumble, those storms, I really believe God inflicted on me. I really do. Because in those storms, I surrendered to him.

And the really, really hard stuff is when I said yes, Lord. Because in the really, really hard stuff, I quit depending on Tommy and depended on God. If you're here today and you've never accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, today's a good day.

The Word of God says today is the day of salvation. Today is the day to surrender. Today is the day to turn it over.

If you're here today and you're in the middle of a storm, today's a good day. You've been asking the Lord, get me out of the storm, get me out of the storm, get me out of the storm, get me out of the storm. Hey, maybe today's the day.

If you've got a loved one that has never trusted in Jesus as Lord and Savior, today's a good day to pray for them. Brother Tommy, listen, everything's good in my life. I just got one loved one I need to pray for.

Okay, the altar's open. Maybe, maybe if you come today and pray at the altar, maybe He saves them. I don't know.

I don't know about your circumstance. I don't know the answer. If I knew the answer, you know what you'd call me? Not Tommy.

There'd be another name you'd use. But here's what I do know. No matter what the storm in your life is, if you will trust Him, He will see you through.

That I know for a fact. Stand with me. Father God, I love you and praise you.

I praise you that you are the God of the storm. That when it all falls apart around me, a lot of times you put me right where you want me so that I will surrender to you. I praise you, Lord, that I can't fix the mess.

I praise you, Lord, for the need in my life for a Savior, the need for a Lord, the need for someone who has authority over my mess, the need that I have for someone that will wrap me up in His arms and say, Listen, I got this because you can't fix it. I thank you that you love me enough to die for me. And if you never ever bless me again, if you never do anything else for me ever again, the fact that you died for me is more than enough.

Father, if there's anyone today that needs you, anybody here, I pray today, Lord, they just surrender. Just give it over. I'm asking you, Lord, to save me.

Because I can't. But you can, in Jesus' name, amen.