



## LESSONS FROM KATRINA: THE WAY HOME



Dear Friends and Supporters:

Who would have thought that we would ever hear this phrase spoken in America: “Today, around 25,000 refugees were moved from the Superdome in New Orleans to the Astrodome in Houston.”

For weeks now, we’ve watched the tragedy continue to unfold. We’ve all wrestled with feelings of shock and disbelief.

We have witnessed so much tragedy – 9/11, Iraq and now the devastation of Katrina. New Orleans sitting in over twenty feet of water. People hacking their way into roofs and helicopters hovering over the devastated neighborhoods. We’ve seen the rescuers, the looters, thankful people as well as resentful people – we’ve just about seen it all.

Some of you may have seen all this up close. Many of you may be helping in many ways to meet the needs of those who have been displaced by this tragedy. And you, as well as many, may wonder ... What is going on here?

Jesus criticized the leaders of his day for focusing on the weather and ignoring the signals: *“You find it easy enough to forecast the weather – why can’t you read the signs of the times?”* **Matthew 16:2-3 (MSG)**

What are we to learn from all this? Is God sending us a message? It seems so. And, it would be wise for us to pay attention. There are some spiritual lessons that I believe God would like for us to learn through this tragedy. The first lesson I believe God wants us to see is ...

## 1. *The Temporary Nature of Possessions*

As we watched and heard those being rescued and evacuated – no one was crying or lamenting about their surround sound, or cell phones, or computers. If they cried, it was for those who were lost. If there was joy, it was for those who were found.

***COULD JESUS BE REMINDING US THAT PEOPLE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN POSSESSIONS. In a country that has so much, could the Lord be saying:***

***“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions”*** **Luke 12:15**

So, Katrina teaches us that: ***Possessions don’t matter; people do.*** We therefore must understand the nature of possessions. We must also be clear on:

## II. *The Nature of People: Saints and Sinners*

As we have watched the news we have seen incredible examples of servant hearts, sacrifice, selflessness and greed.

As people, we can rise to the highest heights of what is noble and good or to the lowest depths of depravity. Katrina blew the mask off of human nature. We see that the tragedy isn’t Mother Nature, but human nature. We see that we can be inhumane at the core.

***“All of us have strayed like sheep. We have left God’s paths to follow our own”*** **(Isaiah 53:6)**

The Bible’s word for the fallen condition of man is S-I-N.

The problem is not the system, but that we need a new nature. We need a change which only God can bring. As so we come to:

## II. *The Nature of God's Grace*

Our sin stands no chance against the Grace of God.

He does more than just cleanse us; he rebuilds us. By the power of His Holy Spirit, God moves in and starts a complete transformation.

***“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding, abundantly, above all that we ask or think according to the power that worketh in us.”  
Ephesians 3:20.***

As we watched the news on T.V, I think the most disturbing thing was to see those who refused to be rescued. They could have been saved ... but they chose to pay the ultimate price.

God wants us to know that we don't have to pay the ultimate price. God will do for us what the many brave and courageous rescuers did for those trapped seeking help. He has dropped a lifeline into our sin filled lives. He will rescue us, He will lift us up.

Dear Friends and Supporters; Your Redeemer lives too. This tragedy can be seen as a tool for God to get your attention. Let's trust in Him while we still can. **HE WILL SHOW US THE WAY HOME.**



***AS THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS*** are fast approaching there are many who are asking “Can we go home for Thanksgiving, Can we go home for Christmas?”

For thousands the answer to this question is NO. They can never go home for Thanksgiving and Christmas again. The reasons are varied and sad.

With no where else to turn many begin to scout out places where they can find COMFORT, a sense of family, FOOD, and ENCOURAGEMENT.

Many homeless and low income families and individuals have already come by the church asking, “Are you guys having the Thanksgiving Dinner?” “Are you going to have toys this Christmas?” “Are you going to serve Christmas Dinner?”

Our answer is Yes. Yes we will be having the Thanksgiving Dinner. Yes we will have toys and the Christmas Dinner.

They leave assured that someone cares for them.

So often these Dinners provide the only source of genuine fellowship, caring, encouragement, that many have seen in a long time.

So many find the TRUE WAY HOME. All because of the provisions that your caring and concern make possible.

We're concerned about people because God is concerned about people. He has a lifeline for them! We want to throw out that lifeline of Salvation, of Hope and of a Future that is bright.

We hope that you will be a part of this lifeline by your continued support and prayers.

You are always in our prayers and we continually Thank God for you.

### **YOUR GIFTS CAN BE SENT TO:**

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### **YOU CAN CALL US AT:**

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