



## Rebuking In the Bible

### Rebuke of: Things

As a writer and reader, I look for the right word that best describes something. People like to get hung up on the word rebuke because of its negative connotations. The culture I have grown up in does not like the word *no*. Even in my life, “no” is a door to yes. There is always a way around it. Yet, there are “no’s” in this world. We can say yes to murder but the law will say no. You can stay home from work but your job has the right to say “no” and fire you. A woman can say “no” to sex even if a man says yes. Lorrie Morgan is famous for saying in a song “*what part of no do you not understand?*” We understand the word *no*.

Rebuking someone is more than just saying no. The dictionary adds a spirited adjective to the description “sharp” disapproval. In English, I feel the word sharp is meant to tell us that a rebuke is serious, to the point, and final. Rebuke has power and command. It’s one thing to say no or maybe. It’s another all together to rebuke someone or something. There are several instances in the Bible where a rebuke is given towards a thing. This type of rebuke is not used to say no, but to command something.

In Matthew 8:26 it says that Jesus replied, “*You of little faith, why are you so afraid?*” *Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.*” There are several things going on here. This is not about Jesus yelling at or admonishing the wind and waves. They were not bad little boys and girls. Instead, we have the word rebuke being used

to command the wind and waves to stop suddenly. I mentioned that the words sharp is attached to the description of the word rebuke. When Jesus spoke the wind and the waves obeyed him instantly. Sometimes the word rebuke is used to stop something sharply (instantly).

The second part of this rebuke is the power and ability of Jesus to end a powerful storm. I love the writing in the Bible. It's not left to chance. Right before Jesus rebuke is a description of the storm. It was furious and powerful. Also, this storm was sudden. Then in comes Jesus and sharply, suddenly, and powerfully he ends the storm with a word. It is not lost on the readers that in the beginning God spoke and creation happened. Matthew has tried to paint a picture of Jesus as the new Moses. Someone who is greater than their beloved prophet. If you will notice, in the Old Testament, Biblical characters did well when they called on God. They equally did poorly when they did not include God. Here in Matthew 8 Jesus succeeds because he is God.

Notice in Luke's account that the disciples knew exactly who to call on to save them. Luke 8:24 *"The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm."* I feel that Jesus rebuke of the waves and wind was to say "that's enough." It's by no mistake that in Job 38 it begins with *"Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said."* God then goes on to say in verse 12 *"Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place."* This is our God and our Jesus His Son.

This power of God and Jesus is not limited to winds and waves. It extends into other areas as well. In Luke 4:39 it says *"So he (Jesus) bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them."* One of Jesus' friends, a man named

Simon had a sick mother. In comes Jesus rebuking the fever. Telling it to sharply stop. The best part is that she got up and started serving them. The fever stopped suddenly and quickly she was healed.

Many of us feel that a rebuke is a bad thing. It's just a word. In-fact this word is really a description of what a command or statement feels like. We will see in the upcoming studies that this word can be used to shame or say no in the way we are used to hearing it. Yet, here in the Bible a rebuke saved the disciples. It saved Simon's mother. I think this word was used here, in these instances, directly because of its sharpness. Only God can heal on the spot. Only Jesus can save us from the storms of life. There is a theme throughout the whole Bible that you can call on God for help. Certainly, in the gospel of Matthew it's spoken throughout this book. As we end this week's study, just think about who you can call on for certain in times of trouble. Who said they will be your all-powerful God?

Matthew 12:28-30 *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*