

# God's Mercy in the Great Storm

September 18, 2022

**Text:** Jonah 1:1-10

**Introduction:**

**Big Idea:** Because of God's mercy, he is serious about both our \_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_.

**1. Because of God's mercy.....our decisions always reflect the \_\_\_\_\_ condition of the \_\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_ (1)**

- If you have a desire to make better decisions in your life---look at your \_\_\_\_\_ first.
- Proverbs 20:5
- Proverbs 4:23

**2. Because of God's mercy...He will often ask you to do things you don't \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ do (2-3)**

- Rebellion is simply saying " \_\_\_\_\_ " to God.
- If you want to run into disobedience, there will always be a " \_\_\_\_\_ " prepared to take you to Tarshish.
- The downward cycle of sin starts with \_\_\_\_\_ disobedience and will always end in \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual disaster.
- Our disobedience always affects \_\_\_\_\_.

**3. Because of God's mercy...disobedience always has a \_\_\_\_\_ attached to it (4-10)**

- Not always does the storm immediately follow the disobedience like with Jonah.
- But storms always follow \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Proverbs 16:5
  - Proverbs 21:7
- God may use a storm to catch our \_\_\_\_\_.

**TRUTH INTO ACTION: God working in our "storms"**

1. God sends storms into the lives of His people to wake them up from their self-reliance. **SEE HIS MERCY IN THE STORM!**
2. The storm is not there to pay you back for your sin but to bring you back from your sin. **REMEMBER GOD'S MERCY IN YOUR RUNNING.**
3. The storm is not designed for retribution; it's designed for restoration. **RESPOND TO HIS MERCY WITH FRESH SURRENDER AND OBEDIENCE!**

**SERMON CONNECT CARD** (Go on the FBC app and complete the digital card at the tab CONNECT or complete a paper card)

- Have you ever run from God before?
- How can we pray for you?



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

### Table Talk

Warm Up: Ever been caught in a storm while on a ship or boat? Share your story.

1. What does God's initial call and Jonah's response tell us about Jonah? What do they tell us about God?
2. Is there someone in your life that incites the same feeling that Jonah had? If they were to show up at church this Sunday, would their presence make you want to flee?
3. What do we reveal about ourselves when we fail to love the "unlovable" in the way God has loved us?
4. In the midst of the storm, the men on the boat cried out to their "gods." Instead of calling out to the true and living God, Jonah was fast asleep. When storms hit in your life, do you cry out to God, or attempt to rely on something else?
5. Jonah is surrounded by pagans seeking deliverance while he is asleep at the bottom of the boat. Do you see any correlation between Jonah's actions and yours as you interact with unbelievers on a day-to-day basis?
6. In verse 9, Jonah describes God as the one who "made the sea and the dry land." In light of that, his attempt to flee seems quite foolish. Can you think of a time when you acted in a way that now seems foolish, considering what you know about God?

**Closing Prayer:** Father God, please help me look at my inner life and see it like you do. Reveal blind spots of rebellion and "small" disobedience. Help me to trust you and obey you completely!