

SAILING OUT OF THE STORM (2 OF 2)

Jonah 1:9-16

Last week: God is in control / Don't stay longer than you have to /
Three causes for the storm: you, others, result of fall - but all in God's plan.

Today: How are we going to get out of this!? God has perfect timing, but we also have steps to take in His plan. Here are five things to help us get out of the storm.

I. HONESTY & AUTHENTICITY. (JONAH 1:9-11)

1. Be **aware** of who you really are, flaws and all.

- i. Revelation 3:17 (NLT)¹⁷ *You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.*
- ii. John 9:41 (ESV)⁴¹ *Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.*
- iii. Galatians 6:3 (ESV)³ *For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*

2. Honesty & Authenticity overcomes **hypocrisy**. (Verses 9-10)

- i. The world has the moral high ground and is asking Christians "why have you done this?" (vs.10).

- ii. “Sincerity makes the very least person to be of more value than the most talented hypocrite.” - CHARLES SPURGEON

3. **Honesty & Authenticity lead to greater influence and authority (Verse 11)**

- i. Rick Warren Article - 3 Fears That Prevent Leaders from Being Authentic and Influencing People: 1) We Are Afraid of Being Exposed. 2) We Are Afraid of Being Rejected. 3) We Are Afraid of Being Hurt Again.

II. HEARTFELT PRAYER. (JONAH 1:14; 2:1-10)

1. **Prayer is effective only when you are walking in God’s will. They called out to Yahweh! (vs.14)**

- i. 1 John 5:14–15 (NKJV) ¹⁴ *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

2. **Prayer is powerful to accomplish God’s will. (See chapter 2)**

- i. Acts 12:5 (NKJV) ⁵ *Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.*
- ii. Philemon 22 (NKJV) ²² *But, meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you.*

III. TAKE ACTION! (JONAH 1:12-13, 15)

1. Sometimes the hard work needs to be done and tough decisions need to be made. (leave that person, change your lifestyle, look for a new job, get rid of that idol, make a commitment, etc)

i. Luke 6:46 (NKJV) *“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”*

ii. Hebrews 12:1 (ESV) ¹ *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

IV. PRAISE & WORSHIP. (JONAH 1:16)

1. The sailors went from fearing the storm to fearing the Lord. This is what happens when we worship, we put God in the proper perspective in relation to the storms.

2. Praise and worship lead to victory over the enemy and the storm.

i. Isaiah 61:3 (NKJV) ³ *To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness...*

ii. *“It may look like I'm surrounded but I'm surrounded by You // This is how I fight my battles” –*
MWS/Upper Room

iii. 2 Chronicles 20:21–22 (NKJV) ²¹ *And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the*

beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever." ²² Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.