

# SAILING INTO THE STORM (PART 1 OF 2)

Jonah 1:4-8

Understanding and dealing with the storms in life.

**Review:** The word of the Lord (we are listening) // The servant of the Lord (we are obedient) // The mission of the Lord (We are merciful) // The presence of the Lord (We are not alone)

Today:

## I. GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER THE STORM (JONAH 1:4)

### 1. This storm was supernatural and caused by God

- i. Whatever the cause of the storm, you can be sure that God is in control of the storm.
- i. *Matthew 8:24-27 (NKJV) <sup>24</sup> And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. <sup>25</sup> Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" <sup>26</sup> But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. <sup>27</sup> So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"*
- ii. *Psalms 89:8-9 (NKJV) <sup>8</sup> O Lord God of hosts, Who is mighty like You, O Lord? Your faithfulness also*

*surrounds You. <sup>9</sup> You rule the raging of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them.*

## **2. God will care for you and get you through this.**

- i. *2 Corinthians 4:8–9 (NLT)* <sup>8</sup> *We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. <sup>9</sup> We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.*

## **II. DON'T STAY IN THE STORM! (JONAH 1:5-6)**

### **1. By trusting in human methods and solutions (no God)**

- i. "Believe in yourself"
- ii. *Jeremiah 17:5 (NKJV)* <sup>5</sup> *Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the Lord.*
- iii. *Psalms 20:7 (NKJV)* <sup>7</sup> *Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the Lord our God.*

### **2. By Trusting in other spiritual or supernatural solutions (wrong god)**

- i. About a quarter of U.S. adults (27%) now say they think of themselves as spiritual but not religious, up 8 percentage points in five years, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted.

- ii. Eastern meditations, astrology, tarot cards, higher power, the force, etc

### 3. **By going to sleep. Don't ignore the storm!**

- i. This brings peace and rest but this is not the “peace” we want. It's temporary.
- ii. *1 Thessalonians 5:3–6 (NKJV)* <sup>3</sup> *For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. <sup>6</sup> Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.*

## III. **WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF THE STORM? (JONAH 1:7-8)**

### 1. **You. The Bad decisions that you have made.**

- i. *Galatians 6:7–8 (NKJV)* <sup>7</sup> *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. <sup>8</sup> For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*
- ii. *Proverbs 22:8 (NKJV)* <sup>8</sup> *He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow...*

### 2. **Others. The Bad decisions that others have made**

- i. The sailors weren't to blame, Jonah was! Also, sometimes bad things just happen as a result of the fall. And, sometimes it's Satan who is doing it.
  - ii. *Romans 5:12 (NKJV)<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—*
  - iii. *Romans 8:21–22 (NKJV)<sup>21</sup> because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.*
  - iv. *1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*
- 3. God. He is using this storm for our good or for the good of others**
- i. Remember, He is going to save a city with this storm
  - ii. Discipline: God speaking through the storm if we don't listen to his voice another way
  - iii. *Hebrews 12:5–6 (ESV)<sup>5</sup> And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord*

*disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”*

- iv. “We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”  
— C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*
- v. “God doesn’t allow His children to sin successfully.” – Spurgeon
- vi. *Psalm 118:18 (ESV)*<sup>18</sup> *The Lord has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death.*
- vii. *2 Corinthians 12:7–9 (ESV)*<sup>7</sup> *So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.*<sup>8</sup> *Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.*<sup>9</sup> *But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*