

The Storm Has Come For The Awakening

The storm of Jonah on the boat and Wisconsin's violent weather patterns both have a speaking message to us all tonight. In other words, God is trying to speak to us all through this very unusual weather pattern that is making history.

The men on Jonah's boat said this is a very unusual storm. We have never seen nothing like this. There must be a reason for this. They connected the dots and discovered Jonah and his God was the reason for this particular type of storm. When storms and weather patterns hit a community it makes us all more dependent on the God who made us because we feel a sense of vulnerability to something we cannot control.

The storm only stops when they throw Jonah overboard. Jonah being thrown overboard represents the dying to the self will because Jonah had no idea a fish would eat him. He expected death. And so does God expect the death of the self will when we are literally shut down with restrictive weather patterns. This is bringing our lives to a screeching halt. This cold vortex weather is a time is slowing us all down for a self examination of our priorities, to reposition ourselves for reaching people Jonah does not want to reach. (Muslims, prodigals, stubborn saints, ministries we refuse to join).

This vortex has hit us RIGHT at a time where we have 9 different pastors changing churches, a new Superintendent, a new section two Presbyter, a resigning revival commission director, and this is a time for self examination for the new property we just signed for. We now have purchased 36, 000 square feet of new property that will seat 600 church members and a new high school, daycare, and other ministries.

God is seeing if we will ask Him what meaneth this vortex Jonah like weather for US personally tonight?

In the belly of the fish Jonah cried out in the hottest prayer meeting he ever had!!!! Jonah is now praying with passion and with great conviction. God knew Jonah was praying to save his life and not necessarily to fall in love with the God who made the fish. God shows incredible patience and compassion for Jonah in this chain of events just like he has done Don Rogers when I did not want to take on certain kinds of ministry assignments. (I didn't want to start this church, nor buy another building, or submit to a district leadership with issues I struggled terribly with.)

God goes to great lengths to get us on location through storms like Jonah. All because He is training us to have a heart like He does for Ninevites. Nineveh was known for violence and war. They are today's modern day ISIS. Your ISIS could be serving in nursery or children's church and you just hate to go and do it. Your ISIS could be taking on manna and you want to quit or not join. Your ISIS could be deciding to sacrifice ally give for the first fruits coming up in a serious way. Your ISIS could be really committing yourself to being disciplined or mentored but you really don't want to be accountable. Your ISIS could be reaching out to build relationships with other leaders other than Pastor. And this polar vortex, I, along with you down to reposition yourself for serving with joy and not compliance only.

Jonah served and obeyed but not with joy. He did not have God's heart for the people. He loved God's law or His word but not the people of Nineveh. Jonah obeyed God but disobeyed receiving God's intimate love for himself. The response of Jonah indicates he was obedient to God's will but did not have God's intimate heart towards his people. God shows compassion on Jonah to engage intimacy with Him. Both in the fish and with Jonah's gourd. Yet he still does not get the heart of God to change his attitude towards intimate love for people.

The real issue and question here tonight facing unparalleled weather conditions is-what will you do now Jonah?

Jonah replies-whatever the Lord wants from me! I am tired of serving Him out of duty and legalism of word obedience. I want God's heart. I will listen and obey and with joy God's assignments He has for me. I accept God is sovereign allowing this short space of a cold vortex to get me to reposition myself like He did Jonah. To respond to God's tender mercies and patience for us with a joyful attitude of saying yes to what we say no to. He wants us to willfully awaken in love to obey in love and not because of the storm that should have killed us. Like Jonah's ship mates other people are watching how you say yes to what you say no to for future ministry. They get healed and they are stirred by the power of your God when you say yes and get thrown overboard to the will of God.

WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW JONAH? WHATEVER THE LORD JESUS ASKS FOR ME TO DO SHOULD BE OUR RESPONSE RIGHT NOW IN PRAYER AND JONAH LIKE WORSHIP!

John 5:30

I am able to do nothing from Myself [independently, of My own accord-but only as I am taught by God and as I get His orders]. Even as I hear, I judge [I decide as I am bidden to decide. As the voice comes to Me, so I give a decision], and My judgment is right (just, righteous), because I do not seek or consult My own will [I have no desire to do what is pleasing to Myself, My own aim, My own purpose] but only the will and pleasure of the Father Who sent Me.

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