

How Can You Sleep?

Jonah 1:1-10

Life Group Discussion – May 6th, 2018

Today's passage is about the disobedience of Jonah.

There's a question we want to answer today:
For those that don't know God, what happens when the storms of life come?

Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. (Jonah 1:5)

This is the behavior of those who do not know Christ. Panic and fear in the face of a scary situation.

However, Jonah was sleeping at the bottom of the ship. It was then that the captain came down and woke him.

So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish." (Jonah 1:6)

The captain that did not know God pleaded with Jonah asking, 'how can you sleep?' and 'is this the time to take a nap?'

We must remember that God can speak through anyone to get His message across to us. Even for us as Christians, we may be spiritually sleeping in the church. In order for us to truly hear Him, God may reach out to us through the words of non-Christians and people who do not even know Him.

Even if there are people who complain and dislike the church, they can still be used by God to speak into our lives.

Those on the ship then draw lots to see who was to blame for this storm, and Jonah was picked.

And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. (Jonah 1:7)

There are two things we can learn from this passage so far.

1. An attitude that does not quickly blame others

Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" (Jonah 1:8)

When those on the ship saw the storm and found out that Jonah was the one responsible, they did not quickly blame him or begin attacking him. Instead they asked for the whole story, and made sure to understand what had happened before making any conclusions.

In today's society, it is the norm to quickly blame others or judge someone because of a mistake or certain behavior. Even in churches, the members who say they love one another do the same thing.

We can learn from those on the boat, even though they did not know who God truly was.

My brothers and sisters,
Let's not quickly judge or blame others for their wrongdoings. Let us trust that God has His perfect timing and that the best thing we can do for others is to simply pray for them. The actions of those who love God are not to quickly blame, but to quickly pray. I hope that we can be a church that prays before anything else.

2. An attitude that is honest

When Jonah was picked by the casting of the lots, he could have easily feigned ignorance and said he did not know what happened. But he was honest in his answer to their questioning.

Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. (Jonah 1:10)

...for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you." (Jonah 1:12)

Even though Jonah was disobedient and fled to Tarshish, he realized on the boat that God had been with him even when he tried to run away.

When we come across a difficult situation, God is still able to work in it and through it to bring glory to Himself. The only job we have is to remember that God is working in our lives in the good and bad times.

The title of today's sermon is, "How can you sleep?"

These were the words that woke Jonah as he was sleeping peacefully under the ship. Even though it came from the captain, it was God who spoke through him.

My brothers and sisters,
Are you like Jonah, spiritually sleeping below the ship? When the winds and waves come, our posture before the Lord is not to be sleeping but to be earnestly and fervently praying to God asking Him for His help.

"How can you sleep?"

Let's wake up from our spiritual slumber. Even though these words were spoken thousands of years ago from the captain of a ship to a disobedient Jonah, these words are also directed towards us today.

I hope that Shining Star can be a church that obeys with honesty and truthfulness, even when things become difficult.

SHARING-----

1. When the lots were cast, Jonah was picked. From this situation we were able to learn about two different types of attitudes. If you were in the same situation as either the sailors or as Jonah, how would you have reacted? Of the two types of attitudes, which is the one that you need to grow in the most? Please share.
2. "How can you sleep?" is the word that God wants you to hear today. If we are supposed to respond to His question, what action(s) do we need to take in order for us to spiritually wake up? Please share with one another.