

## WHY THIS STORM?

When this question is ask immediately our thoughts create images of power, disruption, displacement, and devastation. Victims of a storm would ask themselves “why?” Are you here today “in a storm?”

### I. A STORM TO AWAKEN THE SLEEPING.

Jon 1<sup>4</sup> But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

Jon 1<sup>5</sup>....But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep. <sup>6</sup> So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.

- A. Jonah was so far out of the will of God **that he could sleep when others lives were at stake.**

Our calling, ministry, and placement must be taken seriously.  
We can ill afford to be complacent when people are facing death.  
Jonah could sleep in a storm.

- B. He had to be awakened by **the cry of desperate men.**  
“Arise call upon thy God....that we perish not”

- C. The awakened man of God admits **he is the reason for the storm.**

Jon 1<sup>10</sup>....For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. <sup>11</sup> Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous. <sup>12</sup> And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

- D. The **cure** for the storm was to **separate the culprit** from the innocent. **“Get the rebel out of the boat!”**

The **correction** of God brings the prophet to **repentance.**

Awake sleeper! Peoples lives are at stake. You are a watchman over someones life. Others may be in danger because you are asleep!

### II. AN UNNECESSARY STORM TO ENDURE

Acs 27 <sup>10</sup> And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives. <sup>11</sup> Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul.

Acs 27 <sup>22</sup> And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. <sup>23</sup> For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, <sup>24</sup> Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. <sup>25</sup> Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

- A. The storm was encountered because **a centurion and boat owner ignored a man of God's warning.**  
Others would suffer for their decision.
- B. One of the worst storms to go through is a storm that could have been prevented.  
You find yourself suffering and hurting because someone made a decision that has put you in a storm not of your choosing.  
Financial, physical health, marriage, job, etc.
- C. In the storm **a man of God can be found with a word of hope.**  
v 23 There stood by me this night the angel of God.  
v-22 "there shall be no loss of any man's life among you"
- D. All would be safe because of Paul.  
**"God hath given thee all them** that sail with thee".

### III. A STORM TO BE REBUKED BY FAITH

Luk 8 <sup>22</sup> Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. <sup>23</sup> But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled *with water*, and were in jeopardy. <sup>24</sup> And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. <sup>25</sup> And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

A. Jesus had told them they were going to the other side. He is telling you the same thing. Do you believe him? He is telling you that you can make it! Do you believe him?

B. His sleep would give them an **opportunity to prove their faith.**

C. The boat was taking on water **and fear over whelms them.**

D. Jesus was **asleep** so **the disciples went and woke Him** for they were afraid of drowning. Jesus **rebuked** the storm, and chided them for their fear and their lack of **faith** in Him.

E. Jesus was teaching them if we **have faith that he is with us (in our boat) the boat cannot sink.**

F. He was teaching them the storm can stop if we will take a stand and rebuke it.

III. Lewis Goss and his finance.