



Finish Strong Series

Group #7: I'm the Problem, PT 2

Jonah 1: 12 NASB

12 He said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will become calm for you, for I know that on account of me this great storm *has come upon you.*"

QUOTE:

"The devil alone is making noise enough to wake all the Jonahs if they only want to be awake...All around us there is a tumult and storm, yet some professing Christians are able, like Jonah, to go to sleep in the sides of the ship."

--Charles Spurgeon--

Pastor's Big Point: As we continue to walk through the text of Jonah and the whale, we have to get straight to the hard truth—we're the problem! Some of us are purposefully doing the opposite of God's will for us. Smoking, drinking, fornicating, and spiritually sleeping—but God hasn't left us. Some of us are going the wrong way, running from God's calling over us, but He hasn't taken His hands away. In all of our wrongdoing, we still belong to the kingdom of heaven. We should still come to church. We should still sign in for HLC Groups. He still wants to clean us up. We are the problem, but He still has a purpose for us.

Table
Discussion

What is most difficult about recognizing and embracing God's purpose for our lives?



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Pastor's Teaching Points

1. God's Storm
2. Jonah's Asleep
3. Jesus Slept

Consider how the following scriptures may tie our lesson.

Jonah 1:7-9 NLT

Then the crew cast lots to see which of them had offended the gods and caused the terrible storm. When they did this, the lots identified Jonah as the culprit. "Why has this awful storm come down on us?" they demanded. "Who are you? What is your line of work? What country are you from? What is your nationality? Jonah answered, "I am Hebrew, and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land."

Discussion Questions:

1. Through this lesson, Pastor is encouraging us to self-reflect as we read the text of Jonah's purposeful disobedience and being spiritual asleep – ignoring the sinking ship around him. Would anyone be willing to share a moment of clarity, when they realized, "I am the problem"?
2. How do we recognize and encourage a fellow Christian who may be spiritually asleep?
3. The blessing of this text is that Jonah was still loved, covered, kept, and chosen despite all of his disobedience. How can we use this to evangelize to those who are still wavering in their walk with God?