



DGM Message Title: But GOD

Topic: How to Escape the Storms in Your Life

Message Summary: God doesn't want any of us to hit bottom, but He knows that some of us are so stubborn that we have to hit rock bottom to do better. Some storms in our life come because God is trying to tell us something and it will not cease until we surrender and listen to God. That storm in your life is going to keep raging until you surrender. If you don't stay connected to your strength, your source... if you dare forget, then you're asking for trouble.

Scriptural References:

- Jonah 1 NKJV
- Jonah 16:1-2 NKJV

Key Points:

- The central character in the book of Jonah was a difficult man, but if God could use him, he can use us.
- Jonah 1:1 NKJV
 - The word of the Lord was the highest form of communication between God and any human being.
 - Faith is the ability to maintain a good attitude when God is asking us to do things we don't want to.
 - God told Jonah to go to Nineveh – to people who were a threat.
 - Jonah was going to minister to a city of people who were a threat.
 - People love you until you become a threat to them and that's the moment challenges began.
 - Satan quoted scriptures – it's the right words but the wrong spirit.
- 1:3 NKJV
 - Jonah didn't want to ruin his reputation with countrymen by going to a place he didn't want to go to minister to people he didn't like.
 - He was more concerned about his reputation than God, so he arose and fled instead of traveling to the city he was told to go to.
 - He went in the other direction than what God had instructed him.
 - He ran from the presence of God...
 - the issue is he didn't love the Lord enough to lay down reputation or a petty grudge... to lay down his prejudices and racism.

- God told Jonah I want you to preach with compassion and conviction to the people I want you to preach to.
 - You can take the message of the gospel and preach it with the wrong heart.
 - We can love the Lord, but not enough to lay down our racism, our hate, our resentment, and other issues.
- Resentment hurts you more than the people you resent.
- One step from God's will always leads you down.
- No matter what you do you can't make God forget what He instructed you to do.
- 1:3 NKJV
 - How far do you have to go down before you realize what's up?
 - To feel more comfortable with his sins, he surrounded himself with like-minded people.
 - He left the presence of the Lord.
 - Wherever you have people, you're going to have problems.
 - Being by yourself hasn't caused you strength. There is strength when we come together.
- 1:4-8 NKJV
 - But God intervenes when things are going wrong...
 - I'm going to lose my mind, but God!
 - I didn't know what to do, but God!
 - The storm in your life might be God trying to tell you something.
 - Jonah went to Joppa where he boarded a ship bound for Tarshish, a Phoenician colony on the southwest coast of Spain some two thousand miles to the west.
 - The express design of his trip was to flee from the presence of Jehovah (Jonah 1:3).
- 1 Corinthians 10-13 NKJV
- 21:6 NKJV
 - There are no atheists in fox holes.
 - The weather got bad and they threw the cargo on the ship into the sea to lighten the load.
 - They were doing everything they could do to survive.
 - Jonah kept going down because he had walked away from God's presence.
 - He went to the lowest part of the ship, laid down, and was fast asleep in the middle of such an incredible storm.
 - No one is more miserable than the person who knows better.
 - The men on the vessel feared for their very lives, Jonah confessed that he, as a refugee from the Lord, was the cause of the calamity.
 - Though the prophet's sailing companions did not like the idea, they ultimately were forced to accept Jonah's suggestion that he be thrown overboard.
 - Submit to God and resist the devil and he will flee.
 - We learn so much more from our mistakes when we accept it and understand why we made our mistakes.

- God doesn't want any of us to hit bottom, but He knows that some of us are so stubborn that we have to hit rock bottom to do better.
- Some storms in our life come because God is trying to tell us something and it will not cease until we surrender and listen to God.
- That storm in your life is going to keep raging until you surrender.
- If you don't stay connected to your strength, your source... if you dare forget, then you're asking for trouble.
- You are on your way like Jonah.