

## **ALL IN TO BUILD FOR OUR FUTURE**

*“The God of heaven Himself will prosper us: therefore we His servants will arise and build...So we built...for the people had a mind to work. A good person leaves an inheritance for their children’s children...”* **Nehemiah 2:20; 4:6; Proverbs 13:22**  
(NKJV)



### ***This Week’s Thought – October 29, 2017***

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*“The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are.” But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord.”* Jonah 1:1-3 (NLT)

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The story of Jonah begins with the Lord drawing near to Jonah in an intimate and personal way. He brings an invitation for Jonah to join Him in His mission to bless the whole of creation, and yet this message is so radical and intimating to Jonah that he isn’t able to receive it. We could say that Jonah had checked out of the normal, ordinary rhythms of God’s grace that help to make us ready to receive the Lord when He draws near. How do we know this? Because the Lord has to tell him to “*get up.*”

Why do people have to be told to ‘*get up*’? Generally because they aren’t moving. They’re asleep and checked out, disengaged from the work at hand; and like Jonah, when we disengage from the ordinary daily practices of faithful devotion to God – things like Bible reading, prayer, silence, and solitude – then we are caught off guard when the extraordinary moments of life come our way.

These extraordinary moments could be a word from the Lord like Jonah received. Go here. Do this. Join me in this mission. But there are other kinds of extraordinary moments in life that hit us and we never see them coming. Extraordinary pain and loss that we would never long for or hope for: cancer, job loss, miscarriage, death. The list could go on and on. These are the losses and sorrows in life that you can count on one hand that forever shape and reshape your story.

In these extraordinary moments God so deeply wants to draw near and be close to you, but if you are sitting down and asleep in your faith, when you need Him the most, He will draw near and you will push Him away. You will be so unprepared and caught off guard that you will flee from the very One that can give you rest.

This is one of the great insights from Jonah’s story. When he was meant to be walking with the Lord, he was instead sitting down, unprepared for the intimacy of God’s presence.

Each and every one of us needs and rightly desires the nearness of God in our lives, in good times and in bad. We should long to be the kind of people who can join Him on mission, people that He can invite to partner with Him in making all things new. So don’t neglect the ordinary rhythms of life. It is in the ordinary and seemingly mundane moments of life that you and I are shaped and formed into people who can receive the extraordinary.

**Application:** In what areas of your life do you need to “*get up*” and reengage the daily habits and disciplines of Christian living?

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week:** “Dear God, I give You my full attention in this moment, and I see the result of Your love and compassion towards me. I seek to get my personal self out of the way, so that the Divine can emerge from within me. In my awareness of You, I feel a calm, a complete confidence and the victorious blessedness that always emanates from Your close Presence. Live in me and through me and all around me oh God, freeing me to live a fuller, happier, more useful and more satisfying life through You. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

*“And then God answered: "Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time.”* Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King