
Towards a Virtuous Life

Towards Fortitude, Away from Sloth

Jonah 1:1-6 & Matthew 25:1-13

March 27, 2022 | Rev. Abi Foerster

SLOTH DEFINED:

The avoidance of doing what God wants
because of the effort it takes to do it.

*Never be lacking in zeal, but **keep your spiritual fervor,**
serving the Lord. (Romans 12:11)*

- I. To wake up or not – it's _____ than you think.

A message from the Lord came to Jonah, the son of Amittai. The Lord said, "Go to the great city of Nineveh. Preach against it. The sins of its people have come to my attention." But Jonah ran away from the Lord. (v. 1-3)

- II. Sometimes your wake up call comes in the middle of the _____, during the _____ of life.

Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god... But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. (v. 4-5)

The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'" (Mt. 25:5-6)

TOWARDS FORTITUDE

Ask: What does fortitude and being “fully awake” to God look like?

A. We take _____ for our life.

"Pick me up and throw me into the sea," Jonah replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you." (v. 12)

B. We are _____ to serve the Lord.

Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. (Mt 25:2-4)

C. We trust God enough to make a _____ move.

"Pick me up and throw me into the sea," Jonah replied... (v. 12)

The virgins, who were ready, went in with him to the wedding banquet...Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. (Mt 25:10, 13)

➤ **Example: Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Life**

"Cheap grace is preaching forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession. ... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate." (The Cost of Discipleship, 1937)

Where do you need to “wake up” to God’s call on your life? Take a few minutes to journal your answer below...