

## REACHABLE

Scripture used: [Jonah 1:4-7 \(NIV\)](#); [Jonah 1:14 \(NLT\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

Today, Pastor Hurmon continued the series “Relentless Love” with the sermon entitled “Reachable”. Last week we learned how Jonah refused to obey God when he was called to go to Nineveh to deliver God’s message. In today’s message, while Jonah was on his voyage far away from God, the ship encountered a violent storm. This storm revealed many truths that Jonah was trying to hide. Pastor Hurmon challenges us to take a deeper look at the storms/challenges in our own lives as we seek to be transformed.

### KEY POINTS

1. **Brokenness causes the storm.**
  - a. **The brokenness of life/world.** We live in a fragile world. Disease, illness, famine, drought, and natural disasters occur simply because we are living in brokenness.
  - b. **The brokenness of people.** People in our lives create storms that cause damage. Abuse, mistreatment, selfish behavior...the list of behavior that derives from brokenness is endless.
  - c. **The brokenness of our faith and purpose.** Like Jonah, we have lost sight of who we are in God. We have spiritual ear plugs and blinders which cause us to stray far from God on our own ships to our own Tarshish.
2. **Storms reveal hidden realities.** [Jonah 1:5 \(NIV\)](#)
  - a. **Storms reveal false gods in our lives.** The sailors were so afraid that they cried out to their own gods. Pastor Hurmon suggests that in the midst of our own storms, we too call out to our own gods. Whether that be money, power, or relationships, we put “false gods” above the one true God.
  - b. **Storms reveal faulty thinking in our reasoning.** In their attempt to keep the ship afloat, the sailors drew upon their experience and decided that throwing things overboard would help. Of course, this was faulty thinking. Only God could stop the storm. When we find ourselves in a storm, we too draw upon our own human effort to solve our problems, but we come to realize that only God can stop storms.
  - c. **Storms reveal flaky people on our boat.** During the violent storm, Jonah was in a deep sleep. He was undependable, self-centered, and irresponsible. Flaky for sure. In our own lives, we might have flaky people on our boat too. They might borrow money and never pay us back or make promises they never fulfill. We keep trying to trust them in hopes that it will be different, but they don’t change. Sometimes flaky people can put our lives at risk. Like the sailors threw Jonah overboard, we should dismiss such people from our lives. At the very least, we should stop relying on flaky people to do as they say they will do. We should also take a deeper look at our own behavior. Are we that flaky person?
3. **God has the full picture.** [Jonah 1:14 \(NLT\)](#) After shouting out to their own gods and trying to solve the problem in their own strength, the sailors cried out to the Lord, Jonah’s God. When we can’t solve our problem or stop the storm, we should consult The One who has the full view, the Lord our God. We can ask Him to reveal himself and provide wisdom. Revelation brings transformation.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Pray for revelation. Ask God to give you wisdom about a storm from your past which might require ongoing healing, a storm that is occurring right now that is overwhelming you, or an upcoming storm for which God can help prepare you.
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Pastor Hurmon challenged us with a difficult question this week. Think about this and discuss your answers with family and friends, asking God to reveal something new to you. “What have I resisted seeing about myself and others so I can continue to see God’s purpose?”
- 3) **DO** - As you pray for revelation, ask God to transform you through your actions. Are there people in your life causing storms and putting you at risk? Are you that flaky person? What can you do to become a responsible and dependable person for those around you? Where do you need to let go of your human effort and consult God? Do you have false gods that take precedence over God? Please join us next Sunday, July 31, as Pastor Hurmon continues the series “Relentless Love” from the book of Jonah.