



“Snoring vs. Praying”

(Jonah 1:1-6)

Introduction:

1. It was once said, "the believer sleeps while the world is praying."
2. The believer should be the one always praying to God (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
3. How can we learn about praying from the example of Jonah?
4. Let's examine this passage together...

I. Why Is Jonah Sleeping?

- A. Jonah was trying to escape from God (Jonah 1:3).
- B. Nineveh was a wicked city, for their wickedness had come up before God (verse 2).
- C. Jonah wanted to flee from God so bad that he boarded a boat that was headed in the other direction. (Many think Tarshish was in Spain.)
- D. Why do Christians sleep?
 1. The sermon is boring, worship does not do anything for me, etc.
 2. Do Christians sleep because they try to run from God?

II. What Were The Sailors Doing?

- A. The sailors were praying to their own gods.
- B. These sailors were used to seeing storms and giant waves.
- C. They were afraid of what might happen. They were asking everyone to pray to their own gods (Jonah 1:5).
- D. The sailors woke Jonah and asked him to pray-they needed all the help they could get (Jonah 1:6). (*Notice Jonah's response*)
- E. Jonah was the cause of this entire terrible storm (Jonah 1:7).

III. Does The Christian Sleep While The World Prays?

- A. Maybe so. Many times we may take for granted God and the wonderful things he has to offer.
- B. The world is searching for something that we have graciously been given.
- C. We too need to be asked the same question as Jonah-"How can you sleep at a time like this?"
 1. Have we been asleep to our obligations (1 Corinthians 15:34)?
 2. Have we been asleep to our opportunities (Ephesians 5:14)?
 3. Have we been asleep to our enemy (1 Peter 5:8)?
 4. Have we been asleep to our Lord's return (Matthew 25:13)?

Conclusion:

1. Are Christians sleeping while the world is praying? Let's hope not.
2. Maybe it's time that we "awake to righteousness"?
3. What is your spiritual condition? Maybe you are sleeping now, awake and do something!