

This week has been quite a week. There's a lot of people that are rejoicing in the events of this week and many people are sad and fearful of the events of this week. And it creates an opportunity for all of us because we have friends that are on both sides. We might even be in the same house and be on both sides of everything that happened this week. A number of my friends are reaching out, and they're asking me what do we do.

Well, for those of you who have Facebook, you might have seen a little story I shared this week about Wednesday. Thursday morning she got up and I asked her how she slept because she's been having trouble with bad dreams. And she told me she had a bad dream Wednesday night and I asked her to tell me about it. And she said, well, it wasn't really a bad dream. It was a sad dream. I am like why was it sad? She's like, well, there were bad people doing things to all kinds of people. They are doing bad, bad things and you were sad about it. I'm like, I was sad. She said, yes, you were sad because you were trying to help all of your friends and all these other people. And you couldn't, you couldn't keep up with all the bad things that were going on. I was like, well, is that what made you sad? And she's like, no, what made me sad was that I tried to help too. And there were too many bad things going on that I couldn't help either. We couldn't help everyone, that needed our help and that's what made me sad.

She realizes at five that it takes more than one of us to make change. It takes more than one of us to help to fix things even if it's just going up to somebody saying hello. It takes more than one of us to do that. It takes all of us and we don't understand everything that God has planned for us. We don't know. We don't get it. We won't get it until our time comes.

It's like the story of Jonah that we've been covering the last two weeks. We learned last week that God came to Jonah and told him to go talk to this city. And instead of doing it, Jonah ran, he ran and hid. He took no responsibility for anything going on around him. He didn't try to make a change. He didn't try to help. He just ran and hid, and God still found him. Found him in the ocean, created the storm so he got eaten by a fish.

The part that we didn't read was that Jonah repented. He prayed to God, asked for forgiveness, for what he did for not accepting God's role. Not accepting what he had been asked to do. And God forgave him. And the fish let him out. In that prayer, Jonah says, he didn't want to go into Neneva because he didn't believe. Jonah would truly repent, he didn't believe they would change their ways. And so, when he got there. He started to proclaim, and he sees all these people repenting and rejoicing and dancing. God's saying, okay, I'll give you a second chance. Jonah got angry, because we all would.

We all know that there are people that will repent on Sunday and on Monday they're right back out doing the exact same thing they did all week. We know that there are people out there that believe their faith tells them that it doesn't matter what they do, because Jesus died for our sins. And when God looks at us, he sees Jesus. So they repent enough to make it look like it's a great show and that all of these positive people. But their hearts aren't. And Jonah sees that. Jonah sees that in this town. That these people are going to do this, but they're not going to change. They're still going to be just as evil as they were the day before. They're going to be just as evil with everything happening. So, he's mad. And he tells God this. He's like I told you; I told you this was going to be happening. This would happen. Who would be that courageous to tell God I told you?

So when that is just, and we see what he does to the bush, he could easily do that to Jonah as well. But that's not who God is. He is, we learn through the Old Testament through the New Testament that God is gracious and caring. He teaches us lessons, we might not know. We don't understand why we understand, how. But he has a plan for all of it. He has a plan that one day, we will all understand and that's what he asked Jonah. Why do you have the right to be angry at me, and to be angry at them? It isn't your place to judge. It isn't our place to judge. It is God's, and God's alone.

He will decide what's right and wrong. He will decide who shall be saved and who shouldn't be saved. All we can do is make sure that we keep living true to ourselves. We keep talking about God's love. We keep sharing God's love.

Last night was fantastic. We had a great turnout. Everybody except for me was happy. I'm never making gravy again, but it was still great. We raised a lot of money for the kids for the County Sheriff Program. We had great fellowship. We got to see people we haven't seen in years downstairs. The only time they come is for Harvest Home. We got to take two hours out of a week and share God's love to everybody. We could, and that's what's important. That's what we should take out of this week. Not what we think is going to happen, because we don't know. But we do know that we still love every person. No matter what. We know that God placed us here to help everyone. To share his love. That's what we need to remember. Let us pray.