

July 5 -

“The Prophet and the Pagans”

Jonah 1:7-16

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7. ““Come on! ” the sailors said to each other. “Let’s cast lots. Then we’ll know who is to blame for this trouble we’re in.” So they cast lots, and the lot singled out Jonah. 8. Then they said to him, “Tell us who is to blame for this trouble we’re in. What is your business, and where are you from? What is your country, and what people are you from? ”

9. He answered them, “I’m a Hebrew. I worship the Lord, the God of the heavens, who made the sea and the dry land.” 10. Then the men were seized by a great fear and said to him, “What have you done? ” The men knew he was fleeing from the Lord’s presence because he had told them.

11. So they said to him, “What should we do to you so that the sea will calm down for us? ” For the sea was getting worse and worse.

12. He answered them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea so that it will calm down for you, for I know that I’m to blame for this great storm that is against you.” 13. Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they couldn’t because the sea was raging against them more and more.

14. So they called out to the Lord, “Please, Lord, don’t let us perish because of this man’s life, and don’t charge us with innocent blood! For

you, Lord, have done just as you pleased.” 15. Then they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging. 16. The men were seized by great fear of the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.”

Hebrews 2:1. “We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.”

- We are guided by circumstances when we refuse to be guided by God’s Word.

- Jonah seeks to be anonymous. He hides his identity, and hides his purpose, and hides his God.

Jonah 1:

8b. “Tell us who is to blame for this trouble we’re in. What is your business, and where are you from? What is your country, and what people are you from? ”

9. He answered them, “I’m a Hebrew. I worship the Lord, the God of the heavens, who made the sea and the dry land.”

10a. Then the men were seized by a great fear and said to him, “What have you done?”

10b. The men knew he was fleeing from the Lord’s presence because he had told them.

- The life of the Christian and the life of the world are linked. There is always someone else in your boat.

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12. He answered them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea so that it will calm down for you, for I know that I'm to blame for this great storm that is against you." 13. Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they couldn't because the sea was raging against them more and more.

14. So they called out to the Lord, "Please, Lord, don't let us perish because of this man's life, and don't charge us with innocent blood! For you, Lord, have done just as you pleased." 15. Then they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.

- God is using the storm, an instrument of destruction, to ultimately provide salvation to Jonah and the sailors.

- The story gives us a glimpse into the gospel and God's plan to give us a substitute to spare those in danger.

16. The men were seized by great fear of the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows."

- Even in rebellion, Jonah becomes an instrument through which God brings salvation to others.