

The title of this morning's sermon is, "*The Christ in Jonah – Part II.*"

On Sunday mornings we're working our way through Luke's Gospel verse-by-verse and we find ourselves in the account of Jesus calming the storm. We've been comparing this account w/ the story of Jonah. We're looking at both passages side-by-side, so please make sure your bibles are open to **Luke 8** and **Jonah 1**.

As most of you probably know this past week was very difficult for us. I'll give you an update in just a moment. First, I want to invite you to follow me as I discuss something...

When we read accounts in Scripture, a few verses can be used to describe events that could've taken hours, weeks, years, or even centuries. We tend to think the time it takes us to read the account is the time it took for the account to take place. But this often isn't the case at all.

When we read **Jonah 1** and **Luke 8** we think the sailors experienced a storm for a few minutes and then it was miraculously calmed. That's not what happened. More than likely the sailors experienced that storm for some number of hours:

- It would've been terrifying.
- It would've been very traumatic.
- It would've been one of those situations you never forget.

I can imagine these men talking about it for years to come.

And I think it would've done something else too...

I think it would've helped knit their lives together. I don't know what their relationships were like before the storm, but you can imagine that when they went through something like together it made them closer.

Some years ago Jim Donald shared something w/ me and it brings me to our first lesson...

LESSON 1: FELLOWSHIP IS "FELLOWS IN A SHIP."

When people are in a ship together, they go through the exact same thing:

- When one person goes through the storm, they all go through the storm.
- When one person experiences rough seas, they all experience rough seas.

Paul explains it like this:

- **Rom 12:15b Weep with those who weep.**
- **1 Cor 12:26a If one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*.**

This is Paul's way of saying everyone is in the ship together!

Most of you probably heard the news that on Wednesday night my sister-in-law, Molly, had a major heart attack. She's home, but she has a long road of recovery ahead of her.

Just to let you know, they've requested not to have any visitors at this time.

Since we're regularly around people who go through trials, as your pastor I want to counsel you on how NOT to respond and how TO respond...

First, we often want to help by giving our advice. We feel like we have some familiarity w/ the situation:

- We know someone who went through something similar – or perhaps we went through something similar – so we want to tell the person what they should or shouldn't do.
- Maybe we feel like we've learned something that would be good for them. We think we have some medical or pharmaceutical advice for them.

There's one time it's completely appropriate to give people advice, and that's when they ask for it. When people want advice:

- They can pick up the phone and call.
- They can send an e-mail.
- They can post something on Facebook or The City saying:
 - *Can someone help me?*
 - *What should I do?*

But if the person hasn't asked, then you want to make sure you don't say anything that begins with:

- *You should do this...or you should do that...*
- *Make sure you do this...or make sure you don't do that...*
- *Have you considered...or have you thought of...*

Let me be very clear that people OFTEN mean well when they say things like this, but here's what these statements often do...

They take people who are already under a huge load and make that load even heavier.

ILLUSTRATION WHEN KATIE WAS SICK.

We just wanted to make it to church w/o Katie being cornered by one more woman trying to tell her what she should – or shouldn't – do about her sickness.

There are two things you can do instead...

First, if people don't ask for your thoughts, you can simply listen. Listening is an amazingly effective response when people are experiencing a storm. This is one way to get in the ship w/ them.

The second thing you can do is pick up an oar and start paddling w/ them. There are almost always some number of ways to serve and help, whether it's:

- Bringing a meal...lots of people signed up to do this for us...

- Offering to do the person's laundry...someone did this for us...
- Sending a message that you're praying...we received a number of messages like this...
- Offering to take over a ministry you're in charge of in the church...someone offered this to Katie and she said it blessed her...
- Watching children...we received a number of these offers...
- Cleaning for the person...a number of people cleaned Molly's house...

And this brings me to one of the main things I wanted to say...

It seems like our family has been through a lot recently:

1. First my dad's cancer.
2. Now this situation w/ Molly.

I don't share this to complain. I share it b/c on behalf of my family – the LaPierres and Malinowskis – I want to say...

- Thank you so much for picking up an oar! So many of you have helped us that it's been overwhelming.
- Thank you for being in the ship with us...and thank you for the privilege of being in your ship w/ you when you go through storms.

I've always felt very blessed to be your pastor, but I've never looked at you as ONLY the congregation God has given me. You are our family. We've had a lot to go through the last few weeks, and thank you for going through it w/ us. We couldn't ask for a better church family to have as fellows in the ship w/ us when we go through these storms.

Now we can pick up where we left off last week, but first I want to review. If you look at the top of your bulletin it says...

Note: Lesson 2 and Lesson 3, Parts I-III are from the previous sermon.

Let's briefly look at these lessons...

LESSON 2: THE OLD TESTAMENT IS ABOUT JESUS.

Listen to these verses discussing the Old Testament being about Jesus:

- **Luke 24:27 Beginning at Moses and all the Prophets** (this is a NT way of referring to the OT), **[Jesus] expounded to them in all the Scriptures THE THINGS CONCERNING HIMSELF.**
- My personal favorite: in **Heb 10:7** Jesus said, **“Behold, I have come – in the volume of the book IT IS WRITTEN OF ME.”**

Jesus is revealed throughout the Old Testament in types and shadows that prefigured Him:

- **Heb 10:1 The Law** (referring to the OT) **was only A SHADOW of the good things to come not the REALITIES themselves.** The realities are found in Christ!

- **Col 2:16-17 A festival or a new moon or Sabbaths...are A SHADOW of things to come, but the SUBSTANCE is of Christ.**

But of all the types in the OT, Jonah is one of the strongest and most interesting, b/c he's also identified as a **sign**...

Matt 12:39 [Jesus said], "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except THE SIGN OF THE PROPHET JONAH.

So we've been looking at the ways Jonah is a type of Jesus, b/c they're particularly strong in the account of Jesus calming the storm. Both accounts parallel each other.

Look at Lesson 3...

LESSON 3: JESUS AND JONAH (PART I) LEFT JEWISH TERRITORY FOR GENTILE TERRITORY.

When Jonah set out across the sea, he left Jewish territory and headed to Gentile territory.

Jesus and His disciples were on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee in Capernaum and they headed to the Gadarenes, which was Gentile.

LESSON 3: JESUS AND JONAH (PART II) EXPERIENCED A TERRIBLE STORM.

This is pretty self-explanatory: on their trips, they both encountered terrible storms that threatened to destroy the ships and drown the sailors.

LESSON 3: JESUS AND JONAH (PART III) SLEPT DURING THE STORM.

Despite how terrible the storm was, both men were able to sleep soundly below the deck...UNTIL the next part of Lesson 3...

LESSON 3: JESUS AND JONAH (PART IV) WERE WOKEN BY SAILORS.

Jonah 1:6 So the captain came to him, and said to him, "What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish."

Luke 8:24a And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!"

The sailors woke Jesus and Jonah and said the same thing: "We're going to die!"

The men in both accounts were very experienced at sea:

- If you look back in **verse 5** it says **Then the mariners were afraid**. Most translations say **sailors**. Jonah wasn't just w/ people traveling; he was w/ men who made their lives at sea.

- Jesus was w/ disciples who were veteran fishermen.

They were used to being on the water in storms. For them to be so afraid you get the impression that it was a very legitimate fear from a particularly terrible storm.

More than likely this storm was out of the ordinary. Who knows how many storms they've experienced before, but from their responses it seems like they've never experienced anything like this. How do I know that? Because if they had experienced anything like this—judging from their responses – more than likely they'd be dead.

So they aren't being melodramatic when they wake Jonah and Jesus claiming that they're going to die.

The next part of Lesson 3...

LESSON 3: JESUS AND JONAH (PART V) CALMED THE STORM.

We're going to read a fairly large portion of Jonah 1 w/o stopping...

Jonah 1:7 And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble *has come* upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. **8** Then they said to him, “Please tell us! For whose cause *is* this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” **9** So he said to them, “I *am* a Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry *land*.”

10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, “Why have you done this?” For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. **11** Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?”—for the sea was growing more tempestuous.

12 And he said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest *is* because of me.”

13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them. **14** Therefore they cried out to the LORD and said, “We pray, O LORD, please do not let us perish for this man's life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O LORD, have done as it pleased You.” **15** So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and (now notice this...) the sea ceased from its raging.

Luke 8:24b Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm.

Normally storms come to an end gradually over time, but in both accounts there was a miraculous intervention that caused the storms to stop:

- In **Jonah 1:15** it says **the sea ceased from its raging**
- In **Luke 8:24** it says **there was a calm.**

It's written in such a way so as to present a stark contrast to the earlier words describing a storm that was deadly enough to drown the men.

If you look back at **Luke 8:24** it says the disciples **came to [Jesus] and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master."**

Usually the disciples called Jesus, "Lord." Sometimes they called Him Master. But this is the only time in Scripture they called Him **Master** twice. It's very fitting, b/c this account emphasize the control Jesus has as Master even over nature itself.

So there's a pretty fascinating contrast that takes place in these few verses...

You have one of the strongest demonstrations of Jesus' deity and one of the strongest demonstrations of His humanity:

- You see His deity in being able to calm this storm.
- But right before that you see His humanity in being so exhausted He passed out in the bottom of the boat.

Please look at **verse 24** again. I want you to show you something interesting. Here's how we would expect the verse to read:

- Jesus **arose and CALMED the wind and raging of the water...**
- Jesus **arose and QUIETED the wind and raging of the water...**

We don't really expect to read that Jesus **REBUKED the wind and raging water**, but that's how it's worded in every translation I saw. And the Greek word for **rebuked** is the word used throughout the NT for rebuking sin:

- **Luke 17:3 If your brother sins against you, REBUKE him; and if he repents, forgive him.**
- **1 Tim 5:20 Those who are sinning REBUKE in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.**

So b/c we think of rebuking sin, it looks weird to us to see Jesus rebuking wind and waves.

But here's the thing...

He is rebuking sin indirectly b/c it's sin that's behind the storm. Here's what I mean...

We say, "the fall of man," but that's somewhat misleading. It gives the impression only man was affected by sin. It would be more accurate to say, "the fall of creation" b/c all of creation was affected by sin.

Listen to what it's like for creation under the weight of sin...

Rom 8:22 We know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

You have this image of creation struggling and straining under the effects of sin. There are many beautiful parts to our world, but there are also some horrible, destructive parts: earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, avalanches, and volcanoes that have killed more people than any number of wars.

So here's the point...

This storm – that was threatening to destroy these men – would not have been taking place if sin had never taken place. So indirectly in rebuking the storm, Jesus was rebuking the sin that was behind it!

Let me show you one more example. Look at **Luke 4:39**...

Luke 4:39 So He stood over her (this is Peter's mother-in-law) and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them.

Again it looks weird for Jesus to rebuke a fever, but what's behind all sickness and death? Sin!

So:

- **Luke 4** shows Jesus authority over sickness and death.
- **Luke 8** shows Jesus' authority over nature itself.

And there's one other possibility I want to share w/ you: **Luke 8** might also be showing Jesus' authority over the demonic realm...

When the fall took place, creation was also put in subjection to the devil. Man was given authority over creation, but he forfeited that authority to Satan when he sinned. That's why:

- **John 12:31, 14:30, and 16:11** the devil is **the ruler of this world.**
- **2 Cor 4:4** he's called **the god of this age**
- **1 John 5:19** says **the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.**

And it's possible the devil was using this storm to try to drown Jesus and the disciples w/ Him.

We have at least one example in Scripture of something similar...

After Satan received God's permission to attack Job, he used a storm to kill his children...

Job 1:18 [Someone told Job], "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, 19 and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

So Satan used nature to destroy Job's children, and we can imagine him also wanting to destroy Jesus and the disciples.

And in this particular account there's even a reason the devil might have wanted to prevent Jesus from crossing the lake...

After He reached the other side there's only one recorded event: He cast the demons – or Legion - out of the man. Look at **Luke 8:28**...

Luke 8:28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!"

It's possible the devil knew Jesus was coming and tried to use this storm to stop Him and the disciples.

The last thing I want to say about this miracle before we move on relates to something I shared last week...

There's a duality to Jesus' miracles:

- There was physical application for the people in His day.
- There's spiritual application for us.

While the disciples in the boat experienced a physical storm, it pictures the storms – or trials – we experience. In the parable of the two builders in **Matt 7:25** and **27** Jesus said **the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell.**

These are the trials and burdens that beat on us day-after-day until we feel like we might collapse under them like this house did.

That's why the end of **Luke 8:24** is such a beautiful picture. It says **there was a calm:**

- This gives us an image of great peace.
- It makes me think of the rest that Jesus offers us...

In **Matt 11:28** He said, **"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

Jesus doesn't necessarily offer us a physical rest from storms like the disciples experienced, but He does offer us a spiritual rest through the storms we experience.

Here's the truth...

I would love to be able to tell you that Jesus calms all the storms – or trials – in our lives like He did for the disciples, but I can't say that b/c it's not true. There are some storms the Lord allows to rage through our entire lives.

But this is what I'll say instead...

He can calm the storms that rage...IN US:

- The physical calm Jesus brought in the middle of that sea 2,000 years ago pictures the spiritual calm He can bring in the middle of the storms we experience.
- The rest He was able to bring to the raging waves in **Luke 8** pictures the rest He's able to bring to the raging waves inside us.

An obvious question is: *"How do we experience this peace and rest?"*

The answer is that it comes from trusting God is sovereign over the storms we experience.

This is why we're told verses like...

**Isa 26:3 You will keep *him* in perfect peace,
Whose life is free from all storms and trials???**

No, it says...

**Isa 26:3 You will keep *him* in perfect peace,
Whose mind is stayed on *You*,
Because he trusts in *You*.**

We can have a peace going through storms, b/c we know Jesus is in the boat w/ us and He's in control of the storm.

Now please look back at **Jonah 1:12** so I can show you something fantastic...

Jonah said, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you."

Jonah was willing to die so these men could live, and this might be the only truly selfless act he committed. If you think about the rest of the book, this is a side of him that's very uncharacteristic of him:

- When you preach to people God is going to judge and they repent, but you get angry, you know there's something wrong!
- Jonah stands as an almost unimaginable prophet in that he did the opposite of what a prophet should do.

But right here – in **verse 12** – he looks very loving and compassionate.

And when he demonstrates this beautiful sacrificial nature, who does he look like? He looks a lot like Jesus! The title of the sermon is, “The Christ in Jonah” and this is when Jonah really looks like Christ.

And this brings us to the last part of Lesson 3...

LESSON 3: JESUS AND JONAH (PART VI) WERE WILLING TO LAY DOWN THEIR LIVES SO OTHERS WOULDN'T PERISH.

Let me get you to notice two verses in **Jonah 1**...

- **Jonah 1:6** So the captain came to him, and said to him, “What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, **SO THAT WE MAY NOT PERISH.**”
- **Jonah 1:14** Therefore they cried out to the LORD and said, “We pray, O LORD, PLEASE **DO NOT LET US PERISH FOR THIS MAN’S LIFE...**”

They didn't want to **perish** so they woke Jonah and he told them how they could avoid perishing. Think for a moment about what he said...

- *You have no other choice.*
- *There is no other way for you to survive.*
- *If you don't want to perish, then I must perish!*
- *And if I perish, then you can live!*

So they threw Jonah overboard, but we shouldn't be too hard on them: they didn't want to perish, but we don't want to perish either!

And because of the great love and mercy of God, we don't have to perish...

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him **SHOULD NOT PERISH** but have everlasting life.

But just like in the account w/ Jonah:

- The only way those sailors could avoid perishing is if Jonah laid down his life.
- The only way we can avoid perishing is if Jesus laid down His life for us.

At this point Jonah is looking pretty good, b/c of his similarities to Jesus, but let me remind you of something...

I told you last week that types never live up to the reality; they always fall short. If they didn't, they wouldn't be the type—they'd be the reality itself!

And in **Matt 12:41** and **Luke 11:32** Jesus said, “**a greater than Jonah is here**” referring to Himself.

So I want to be clear about some ways Jesus is **greater than [Jonah]**...

First...

- Why were these men's lives in danger? Because Jonah rebelled against God! Jonah offered to lay down his life b/c he disobeyed God the Father and these men were going to perish as a result of his sin.
- Why are our lives in danger? Because WE rebelled against God. And Jesus offers to lay down His life out of obedience to God so we might not perish.

Second:

- As wonderful as Jonah's sacrifice was, it only saved these men from physical death...and even then only for a period of time. Although they didn't die that day at sea, they all died later.
- Jesus' sacrifice – on the other hand - doesn't save us physically for some period of time, it saves us spiritually. Jesus' sacrifice saves us in the true and greater sense of giving us eternal life.

Third, I want you to picture something...

We've spent two weeks discussing the storm that threatened to destroy the boats and the sailors aboard them. For a moment, just picture the terrible wrath and fury of that storm as it raged against those sailors.

Now look at Jonah's words in **verse 12**. He said, **"Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you."**

- That fury against you will be gone.
- All that wrath will be satisfied.

Can you see the beautiful type?

LESSON 4: JESUS CALMS THE SEA OF GOD'S WRATH THAT'S AGAINST US.

I know I use the word "favorite" often in my sermons – and I don't really see that changing – but as I was studying the typology between Jesus and Jonah this became one of my favorite pictures of the Gospel.

The storm in this account that threatened to destroy the boats and the sailors in them was terrible, but here's what you need to know...

The wrath of that storm that was against those boats pales in comparison to the wrath of God that's against us b/c of our sin.

But here's what else you need to know:

- Just like when Jonah was thrown into the sea, he calmed that wrath.
- When Jesus is thrown into the sea of God's wrath, He calms that wrath that's against us.

Earlier I talked about the peace that Jesus gives us, and the true and greater peace is described in **Rom 5...**

Rom 5:1 Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...9 Having been justified by [Christ's] blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Listen to this quote from Charles Spurgeon...

“Brethren, I wish I had the words to describe the peace which comes to a human heart when we learn [that] Jesus is cast into the sea of divine wrath on our account. [Our] conscience accuses us no longer. Now [God's] judgment decides for us instead of against us. [We] can look back on past sins with sorrow for the sin itself, but with no fear of any penalty to come. It is a blessed thing for a man to know that heaven and earth may shake, but he cannot be punished for his sin.”

Let me close by asking you to look one more time at **verse 12**. It says...

“Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm FOR YOU.”

Jonah said these words to the men on board the ship but Jesus is the true and greater Jonah, and He says these words to us. He says, **“Pick me up and throw me into the sea [of God's wrath]; then the sea will become calm for you.”**

This account in Jonah 1 has always only been a type – or picture – of something else. The true and greater sense of this account takes place for us spiritually when Jesus is our Lord and Savior.

Let's pray.