

Series: Seas of Grace
C.R. 3-27-22
“O Preacher Where art Thou”

Text: Jonah 1: 4-7

Intro: Today we continue in our new series on the book of Jonah. The series is Seas of Grace. Remember last week we saw Jonah receive his command from the Commander (God). Jonah decided that this was not something that he really wanted to do. He did not want to go to people that he did not like and tell them that God had it out for them. We saw why he did not want to do this in chapter 4. He knew the heart of God was to save, not destroy. So, Jonah decided that he would go as far away as he could. He would pay the fare and he would run.

Today we will see the ship set sail and we will find the entire ship in a storm, and we will take a hard look at Preacher Jonah.

1) The Sleeping Preacher (v.5c)

- a. Jonah is asleep in a tremendous storm, while fear is taking over, and people are fearing for their lives.
- b. Running from God is tiring work. It takes a lot of work to keep coming up with excuses and trying to convince yourself that you are right.
- c. There are far too many today who are running from truth, and from doing what they know is right and what they are supposed to be doing.
- d. Note: To many Christians are like Jonah. In selfish ease instead of seeking to help perishing souls.
- e. It should be of note to us today who sent this storm. “But the Lord sent a great wind on the sea”.
- f. Jonah’s disobedience caused this boat to rock.
- g. We must understand that our disobedience does not affect just us.

2) The Sought-Out Preacher (v.6)

- a. A prayer service broke out all over this boat, because these men thought they were going to die.
- b. If the pilot panics, I guarantee I will.

- c. These men had gods for everything and all occasions, so they started praying to whoever would listen.
- d. These men prayed because the ship was sinking, that is often how it seems to go.
- e. Fair weather Sailors are in abundance.
- f. The captain wakes up Jonah and says to him to pray to his God.

3) The Found-Out Preacher (v.7)

- a. We can hide, but not for long.
- b. God always puts the cap on the right head.
- c. So many times, we think we will slip under God's radar, and that he will not notice what we are up to.
- d. We think that the lot will never fall on us.
- e. The fact is that we will all face the judgment.
- f. There comes a time that excuses will not hold water, and blame will not work, the truth will come out.

4) The Powerless Preacher

- a. Jonah had an opportunity to be a powerful witness, but instead is a powerless preacher.
- b. Salt without savor is worthless.
- c. Samson in the power of the spirit of God is more mighty than a host of Philistines but as a runaway from God was a laughing stock.
- d. If we have his presence nothing shall be impossible. If we have not his presence we have nothing worth having.
- e. Moses prayed "If your presence is not with us, carry us not up".
- f. Our strength lies in our nearness to God. Not in our ability, or our talents. But in his presence in our lives.