



# Digging Deeper

*Putting your faith in ACTION!*

This morning let's not be just 'hearers' of the Word, but 'doers of the word. Take some time at lunch, dinner, or bedtime to DIG DEEPER into the today's lesson and story. Take a few moments to apply today's lesson to our lives.

## **ASK MYSELF...challenging questions for the heart:**

1. How does it hurt our understanding of salvation when we minimize God's wrath and judgement? How grateful are you that Jesus took on God's wrath and judgement so that we wouldn't have to.
2. Why is it hard for us to show others the same grace that we want for ourselves? Is there someone who you have in mind when thinking about that question? How can you extend them grace?
3. Is there anything about Jonah's heart and attitude you feel you might relate to? What do you believe God would have you do to address this?
4. Take some time to pray for those who you might think of as 'unredeemable'. Perhaps take a step of faith and invite them to church.

## **FOR THE FAMILY...challenging questions for family life:**

1. Read the book of Jonah together as a family. See what questions and discussion emerge with your children.
2. Read together Matthew 12:38-41. Explain how Jesus is like Jonah and see what questions your kids might have. Emphasize how much God cares for and loves us.
3. Take some time to pray together as a family.



## **Today's Service**

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## **Series: Better | Jesus is Greater Part 3: Into The Storm**

Pastor Brian Stanley



**Matthew 12:38-39** (NLT) <sup>38</sup>One day some teachers of religious law and Pharisees came to Jesus and said, “Teacher, we want you to show us a miraculous sign to prove your authority.” <sup>39</sup>But Jesus replied, “Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign; but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah.

**Jonah 2:8** (NLT) <sup>8</sup>Those who worship false gods turn their backs on all God’s mercies.

## HOW WE CAN BE LIKE JONAH

The truth is we are all quick to turn to \_\_\_\_\_.

What we sometimes fail to remember is that our idols are not always made of \_\_\_\_\_. They reside in our \_\_\_\_\_.

**Jonah 2:9b** (NLT) <sup>9</sup>...For my salvation comes from the Lord alone.”

Jonah’s heart and attitude: Jonah 4 – likewise...

We can be quick to forget the \_\_\_\_\_ we’ve been shown, and quick to take granted the \_\_\_\_\_ we have received.

We can allow our hearts to grow cold and \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ suffering and struggling in spiritual darkness around us.

**Jesus is greater than Jonah:** Jesus entered the belly of the \_\_\_\_\_ willingly. He put Himself in our place, cast over the side into the deep, bearing \_\_\_\_\_ and shame.

Jesus went \_\_\_\_\_ into the storm.

**Jonah 1:1-16**

**Mark 4:35-41** (NLT) <sup>35</sup>As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let’s cross

to the other side of the lake.” <sup>36</sup>So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). <sup>37</sup>But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. <sup>38</sup>Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re going to drown?” <sup>39</sup>When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Silence! Be still!” Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup>Then he asked them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?” <sup>41</sup>The disciples were absolutely terrified. “Who is this man?” they asked each other. “Even the wind and waves obey him!”

## SIMILARITIES BETWEEN JONAH AND JESUS

- Both Jesus and Jonah were in a boat, and both boats were overtaken by a storm – the descriptions of the storm are almost identical.
- Both Jesus and Jonah were asleep.
- In both stories, the sailors woke up the sleeper and said, “We’re going to die.”
- Moreover, in both cases, there was a miraculous divine intervention and the sea was calmed.
- Further, in both stories the sailors then become even more terrified than they were before the storm calmed.

**Matthew 12:41b** (NLT) <sup>41</sup>...Now someone greater than Jonah is here—

When he was on the \_\_\_\_\_ he was thrown – willingly, like Jonah – into the ultimate storm, under the ultimate waves, the waves of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 12:40** (NLT) <sup>40</sup>For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.

What Jonah was \_\_\_\_\_ to do, Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ to do.

