

# The Sermon

## Welcome

Good morning!

My Name is Pastor Jonathan

And I am so grateful that each of you are here today.

Everyone is welcome at Harvey!

## Opening Illustration

Now this fall...I've been coaching my son Timothy' 8U flag football team with a few other dads...

And if you've never coached a bunch of 7 and 8 year-olds in flag football...

### ***Let me paint the picture for you.***

- We get in the huddle...
- The coach gets on his knees...
- There's a lot of talking and trying to convince them to listen...
- And then finally we get them to focus on the playbook...
- Tell everyone where they are going....
- Like...remember... we did this in practice...

### ***And every one of them is nodding...***

Like they understand...

- And then they go to line up...
- And only half of them know where to go...

And more than once...we've had two of them run full steam into each other at the same time...bonk heads...and then start crying...

### ***Like we had a great huddle...***

- But then it was a hot mess on the field.

### ***But I've noticed this...***

- Not every kid leaves the huddle confused.
- I've got some kids... who are really quiet...but listen really well...
- So when we call the play...they take it seriously.
- They leave the huddle...and they know what they're doing...
- Because they listened....**AND THEY TRUST** the one who called it.

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

***And when I think about a coach whose players listened to him... because they trusted, respected, and feared him....***

***I can't help but think about Nick Saban...***

- ***Seven national championships...***
  - 6 at Alabama...
  - 1 at LSU...
- He was one of the most feared and respected coaches in the history of college football.

***And you didn't have to be in the huddle to know what kind of coach he was...***

- You could see it from the television screen....
- ***Those players took their coach seriously.***

***But I remember playing football in high school...***

- There was always that one kid who heard the play just fine...
- Knew exactly where he was supposed to go and what he was supposed to do...
- But then he got on the field and ran whatever route HE wanted to...
- ***Because HE wanted the ball...***
  - He wasn't confused.
  - He just didn't trust, fear, and respect his coach.

***And here's the thing...***

- The fans in the stands never hear what's said in the huddle...
- All they see is what happens after the huddle breaks.
- You can tell a whole lot about a coach... just by watching his team play.

### ***Transition***

***Last week we began walking through the book of Jonah.***

AND We saw Jonah, a prophet of God, who said NO to God...

***And this morning, the story keeps going.***

- And the sleeping prophet finally speaks...
- And he says four words that are the whole point of this passage:  
***"I FEAR THE LORD."***

***But Jonah is that kid in the huddle...***

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

- He heard the play just fine...
- He knew exactly where God wanted him to go...
- And he broke the huddle and ran the opposite direction...

### ***And here's what's so interesting...***

These pagan sailors ***who DIDN'T know God***...end up fearing Him more than the man who did.

I read this from ***Richard Phillips*** this week and couldn't get it out of my mind....:

*"Christians wonder why there is no fear of God in the society around us. The reason is that there is so little fear of God in the church."*

***In fact, our big idea for today is this:***

### ***Big Idea***

***When The Church Fears The Lord, The World Sees Who The Lord Is.***

### ***Transition***

So if you have a copy of God's Word today, turn to ***Jonah 1***, and we'll be in ***Chapter 1, vs. 7-17*** today.

I'll begin by reading ***vs. 7-10***

## ***1. A Sleeping Church Exposed (Jonah 1:7-10)***

### ***Jonah Is Thrown into the Sea***

***7*** And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.

***8*** Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?"

***9*** And 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, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

### ***A. The Lot Falls Where God Sovereignly Directs (vs. 7)***

## **Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord**

Last week we saw that these experienced sailors prayed to every god that they could think of....

- They had thrown their cargo overboard...
- The cargo they were getting paid to haul....
- So, in essence, they threw their paychecks overboard....
- And the storm is only getting worse....

So they say...***“Let’s cast lots and find out who is responsible for this!”***...

### ***Now what does this mean? What is casting lots?***

This was a practice used in the ancient world....

Where people would take a kind of dice...and roll them for a yes/no answer....

And however they landed...was them saying....“Let it be God’s will that decides” this question.

### ***For us today...***

#### ***We have no need of casting lots....***

- We now have The Holy Spirit indwelling us...
- And we hold God’s Holy Word in our hands...

### ***But we see here that these sailors throw their dice...to see whose fault this storm was...***

- And God sovereignly ordained it to land on the one man who had been sleeping below deck....
- This was the sovereignty of God put on full display....

The same God who was hurling a storm at this ship....

Was also sovereignly directing where these dice fell...

### ***See, Jonah thought he was running from God...***

- He bought a one-way ticket to the other end of the known world....
- He went below deck and fell asleep....
- But his sin found him out....
- Even among pagan sailors....

### ***That was true for Jonah....***

#### ***And Christian:***

#### ***That is true for us today too!***

- You can hide a whole lot of things from a whole lot of people....
- But you cannot hide anything from God....
- And sometimes the kindest thing God can do for us...
- Is to let our sin be found out....

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

- So restoration and healing can come....

### **B. The World Asks, “Who Are You?” (vs. 8-9)**

So the lot falls on Jonah...

**And then these sailors got some questions....**

- *Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us....*
- *What is your occupation...*
- *Where do you come from...*
- *What is your country....*
- *Who are your people....*

Like these sailors are in the middle of a wild storm...

And yet they start playing 21 questions with Jonah!

But what they are asking is really this: **WHO ARE YOU!?!?**

**Think about this:**

- Jonah has been on this ship for a while...
- These men have watched him board...
- They've watched him go below...
- And they still have no idea who he is.

**They don't know he's a prophet.**

**They don't know what God he serves.**

Because Jonah's been completely silent.

**Richard Phillips** said this about this verse:

*“So it was with Jonah: the mariners did not even know who he was.*

*They did not know his occupation or who was his God.*

*The church, like Jonah, is called to fear the Lord, and the result of a God-fearing church is that the world knows what it stands for, and which God it serves.”*

**When I read that this week, I couldn't help but wonder....**

**What about us?**

- Do the people around us...**KNOW WHAT WE STAND FOR and WHICH GOD WE SERVE?**
- **OR are you just silently snoozing below deck?**

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

### ***Finally, in vs. 9, Jonah speaks....***

Jonah says:

- I am a Hebrew
- I fear The LORD, the God of Heaven, Who made the seas and the dry land....

### ***AND for all of Jonah's faults....***

This is a GREAT confession!

### ***Jonah identifies....***

- Who he is...a Hebrew
- And **WHO** He serves...
  - Yahweh...The LORD...
  - The God who made all things....
  - The sea and the dry land...everything.

### ***And Jonah tells a bunch of sailors....***

- In the middle of a great storm...on the sea....
- The God I serve...made the sea!

And while Jonah said....***I FEAR THE LORD...***

- Jonah also was the man running away from The LORD...

In other words, ***Jonah's got his theology right...***

***But he forgot to get his life right...***

***his life didn't match his words....***

But even with Jonah in disobedience...Jonah says the one thing that should be the confession of every believer of Jesus Christ....

***I FEAR THE LORD!***

***Richard Phillips*** said this about this verse....

***"But when the church is truly awakened, the first sign is that it fears the Lord.***

***However incomplete Jonah's repentance was to this point, he still gave the very definition of a true, awakened Christian: "I fear the Lord."***

***CHRISTIAN:***

***I want you to notice here....***

It is possible to say all the right things about God...

And still be running from Him....

**Isaiah 29:13** says,

*This people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me.*

For us, the question isn't, "**Do you know the right answers?**"

The question is, "**What is your life saying about what you believe?**"

What's the story your life is telling?

### **C. The World Asks, "What Have You Done?" (vs. 10)**

**Vs. 10** tells us **after** Jonah answered these men.....

*Then the men were exceedingly afraid...*

Literally, the Hebrew phrase says, "**They feared a great fear.**"

**And so they look at Jonah and say,**

**"What is this that you have done!"**

**We see this same phrase in Genesis 3.**

God walks in the garden and says to the woman...

- "What is this that you have done?"
- They were hiding from God because they hadn't obeyed...
- And Jonah was hiding out because he didn't want to obey!

**This is the same thing these pagan sailors say to Jonah!**

- They had just heard Jonah say...I worship The LORD who made the sea....
- And then Jonah told them that he was fleeing from the presence of The Lord....
- And even these worldly men...say..."**HEY THAT DOESN'T ADD UP!**"
- How do you **FEAR GOD**...yet you're **RUNNING FROM HIM!?**

**So they say: What is this you have done!?**

- The God who made the sea?....

**AND you thought it'd be a good idea to run from Him...ON THE SEA?! THAT HE MADE!?**

**What were you thinking?!**

**I just think the irony is so thick here...**

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

- Like these men who don't know God...
- **FEAR GOD....MORE** than the Prophet who has heard God speak and knows Him....

### **HEY CHURCH:**

I wonder if we still live in a world...that often looks at the church and says....**"WHAT IS THIS YOU HAVE DONE!?"....**

- Another Pastor has a moral failure
- Another church splits over some meaningless thing....
- Another Christian on social media fighting with other Christians online....

I wonder if the world might look at **US** and say...

**"You say you fear THAT God...SO WHY YOU DOING THIS?"**

### **HEY Christian:**

We are to have a healthy respect and reverence for **WHO GOD IS, WHAT GOD HAS DONE, and WHO WE ARE IN LIGHT OF WHO HE IS!**

- God is not someone we simply run to when it is convenient...
- God is not your homeboy...
- God is not the big man upstairs...

**GOD IS HOLY, PERFECT, AND OTHER THAN...**

**Therefore WHO HE IS demands OUR RESPECT, REVERENCE, and WORSHIP!**

**And when the church loses its fear of God...the world loses its picture of WHO GOD IS...**

Let's keep reading to see what happens next in **vs. 11-13**

## **II. A Rowing World Exhausted (Jonah 1:11-13)**

**11** Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous.

**12** He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you."

**13** Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them.

### **A. Only One Way Out (vs. 11-12)**

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

***Now....the sailors know WHO Jonah is...***

***And....they know WHAT he has done...***

***So they ask the only question left...***

***What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?***

***And the text tells us...the sea had grown more and more wild...***

- Like, the storm was getting worse.

***And look what Jonah says in vs. 12...***

***Pick me up and hurl me into the sea...***

***Back in vs. 7...***

The sailors cast lots...so they would know who was responsible for the storm...

And now Jonah says...

***I KNOW IT'S ME...THE STORM IS HERE BECAUSE I'M RUNNING FROM GOD!***

***For the first time...in this book....***

- ***He says: It's me. I'm the reason for this storm....***

***God was hurling a storm...***

- And now Jonah says... ***"Hurl ME into the sea!"***

***What was Jonah thinking here...telling them to throw him into the sea???***

***Well...we don't really know...because the text doesn't tell us...***

- Some have said that Jonah would rather take his chances in the sea...than go to Nineveh and take God's mercy to them...

***But I ALSO think it's TELLING IN WHAT Jonah DOESN'T SAY!***

- Jonah doesn't say... "Lord, forgive me, against You have I sinned!"

- Jonah doesn't say... turn the ship around....

- Jonah doesn't get on his knees before a Holy God....and repent...

***Jonah just says...throw me into the sea....***

***See, Jonah takes responsibility...***

***But he still hasn't repented.***

***Hey For Us Today:***

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

I wonder how often our “taking responsibility” for our actions...can still **fail to look like repentance...**

**We may say...**

- Yeah...that was my fault; I shouldn't have handled that in that way...
- But we can still fail to fall on our knees and say Lord forgive me....against you I have sinned....

**We may say...I messed up...**

- But fail to say, Lord, help me to turn away from that thing I messed up with...

**See, repentance isn't just about taking responsibility or understanding you messed up...**

- Repentance is actively turning from our disobedience and going in the opposite way....

**When Jesus talks about repentance...**

- He's not talking about being perfect...
- He's talking about actively turning from our sin and fighting to follow Him away from our sin...

### **B. Rowing Harder Against God (vs. 13)**

**Look at vs. 13...**

It tells us...even after Jonah said **Throw me into the sea...**

**They were like, well....we've gotta try something else first...**

So they start trying to row to get back to dry land...

**But the harder they rowed against God's storm...**

**The harder God hurled the storm at them....**

**See, even for these Pagan men...the easiest solution would be to do what Jonah had told them to do...**

- But they didn't want to throw someone overboard in this storm...

**And just think about this for a moment...**

These men...

- they had lost their paycheck...their cargo because of Jonah...
- They thought they might lose their lives because of Jonah....

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

But the text tells us... they **ROWED HARD**...like they **dug in** and put their whole backs into those oars...

- To try to save a man's life...who had cost them much!

***They feared losing their lives because of Jonah...***

***And yet they're STILL trying to save him!***

***And there is so much irony here....***

- **Jonah had closed his heart** towards the salvation of the pagans of Nineveh...who he didn't believe deserved the mercy of God...
- **And now Jonah**...who is walking in disobedience to God...has the pagan sailors doing everything they can to save his life...

***Like....***

- Jonah didn't care about a whole city full of people
- And yet these pagan sailors are breaking their backs for one man they don't even really know...

***Hey, I wonder for us today...***

- If, at times, the lost and dying world can show more compassion than we can as people of God...
- That's why I pray **often** that God would break our hearts for what breaks His heart....
- That He would give us soft hearts of compassion...and not hardened hearts to the hurting around us....

***And look at the end of vs. 13...***

- The harder they row...
- The worse the storm gets.

***Why?***

***Because there was only one way out of this storm...***

- And it wasn't by rowing.

***I believe for us today...***

That's a picture of every single person who tries to fix their sin problem with their own efforts.

- Like we know the problem...
- We know we're not perfect....

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

- So we just try to row harder...
  - We try to be a better person...
  - We try to go to church more...
  - We try not to use as much bad language...
  - We try to make up for what we've done bad...
- And yet we Ain't going nowhere!
- We're just exhausted...from trying to row....

***Because here's the truth....***

- ***You can't row your way out of the storm of God's righteous wrath.***

**Romans 6:23** tells us the payment for our sin problem...is death...it's eternal separation from God....

And there Ain't no rowing that's gonna outrun the storm of God's wrath that is coming for us...

***The only solution is the rescuer named Jesus Christ.***

***And we don't like to talk a whole lot about The Wrath of God in church anymore....***

- It makes us uncomfortable...
- But when we **KNOW WHO GOD IS**...we **FEAR HIM**...not in that we cower from Him...but in a way that we have a **HEALTHY RESPECT OF WHO HE IS**...
- That He is perfect...
- That He is the creator of all things and the ruler over all things!

***And understanding that one day...for those who are not saved in Jesus Christ....***

- His righteous wrath will come upon them...
- Because they are sinners who are eternally separated from Him in a real place called **Hell**...
- And the only **HOPE** any of us have...is the rescuer named Jesus Christ...

***See, when the church doesn't fear the Lord...***

- We may communicate to the world around us...
- You just gotta row harder...
- And they end up exhausted trying to be better....

***But WHEN A CHURCH TRULY FEARS THE LORD....***

- They get on their knees...
- And point the world around them...
- To the only Hope we have...
- Which is the Rescuer Jesus Christ...

AND the most loving thing we can do as a church...is to **FEAR GOD** and teach others to **FEAR GOD!**

***What Happens When The World Fears God?***

Let's keep reading in **vs. 14-17** to see...

***III. Frightened Crew Turned To Worshippers (Jonah 1:14-17)***

**14** Therefore they called out to the Lord, "O Lord, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you."

**15** So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.

**16** Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

***A Great Fish Swallows Jonah***

**17** And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

***A. Pagans Pray to The LORD (vs. 14)***

So after trying to save Jonah from rowing...after digging in and making no progress...**we see vs. 14...**

**FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THIS STORY...**

**SOMEBODY CALLED OUT TO THE LORD!**

- ***And it wasn't Jonah...***
- ***It was these Pagan Sailors...***

In **vs. 2...**

- God told Jonah..."Go to Nineveh...and CALL OUT against it"

In **vs. 6...**

- the captain told Jonah... "Arise..CALL OUT to your God!"

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

AND NOW in **vs. 14**...the pagan sailors...are the ones **CALLING OUT** to The LORD!

**AND It's just amazing to see The Sovereignty of God in this story...**

- Like the prophet of God won't pray....
- So God, in His Sovereignty, works it out where the pagan sailors are the ones calling out to Him!
- See, God's gonna get the glory...even if rocks have to cry out...

**These men had been calling on every god they knew...**

And now they're calling on The True GOD that Jonah told them about.

**And listen to what they pray...**

**First they pray...** "*Let us not perish for this man's life...*"

- That's the same thing the captain said back in **vs. 6**
- They're asking for the grace of God...

**Second, they pray...** "*Lay not on us innocent blood...*"

- They've caught a glimpse of God, and they fear His Wrath...
- They're afraid of God's justice.
- They don't want to be found guilty of taking a man's life.
- So they pray...for forgiveness...don't hold this against us...

**And Third, they pray...** "*For you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you.*"

- That is a confession of God's sovereignty.
- In other words...These sailors are saying...
- **You're in control. Not us. Not our gods. YOU ARE.**

**You see what is happening here...**

- A whole boat full of pagan sailors...
- Heard the name of The LORD...
- And they begin to **CALL OUT TO HIM** for His grace, His forgiveness, and confessing that He is in control and they are not!

**In the middle of this storm...**

They heard The Name of Yahweh and caught a glimpse of **WHO HE IS**...and they **FEARED HIM!**

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

**AND Jonah may have told them who God was half-heartedly...**

- While he was still running...
- While he was still unrepentant...

**BUT EVEN THEN...**

God used it....so that a ship full of pagan sailors....learned the name of the true God and started **CALLING OUT TO HIM.**

**SO CAN YOU JUST IMAGINE...**

What God might do...

- With a church that isn't half-hearted...
- **WITH A CHURCH**...WHO ACTUALLY FEARS THE LORD...
- AND **WITH A CHURCH**...WHO ACTUALLY OPENS ITS MOUTH TO PROCLAIM HIM!

**When The Church Fears The Lord, The World Sees Who The Lord Is. (Richard Phillips)**

**B. One Man Goes Under, the Sea Goes Still (v. 15)**

**Look at vs. 15...**

*"So they picked up Jonah and HURLED him into the sea..."*

**God hurled the storm.**

- **The sailors hurled the cargo.**
- **Jonah said, "hurl me."**
- **And now...they hurled Jonah into the sea...**

**And what happens?**

*"The sea ceased from its raging."*

The moment Jonah hits the water...the storm stops....

**C. Sailors Become Worshipers (v. 16-17)**

And look at **vs. 16...**

*Then the men feared The LORD exceedingly*

What that word exceedingly means is they **FEARED A GREAT FEAR!**

**They started out afraid of the storm...**

And they ended up **FEARING** the God who MADE the storm

***And I want you to notice these men's response...when they caught a glimpse of WHO GOD IS...***

- They Worshipped Him!
- They offered sacrifices to THE LORD
- And made vows...

***And you're like, oh, made vows...***

- Yeah, like, God, if you help me through this, I'll never do this again....

***No! Notice...the sea had already ceased its raging!***

- They were making commitments to the LORD and worshipped Him...because **THEY FEARED HIM!**
- **BECAUSE THEY CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF HIS GLORY!**

***And I don't want you to miss the IRONY HERE...***

- Back in vs. 9, Jonah **IS THE ONE** who said, "**I FEAR YAHWEH**"...
- But the pagan sailors are the **ONES WHO ACTUALLY FEARED YAHWEH ON THIS BOAT!**

***Jonah used the right words....***

The Pagan Sailors had the right heart...

***Hey Church:***

I wonder...do we **REALLY FEAR** the Lord?

- Or are we often just saying all the right words...
- When our heart is far from Him?
- And I'm not just preaching to you...
- I'm preaching to myself too....

***God's not looking for a church that knows the right words...***

***He's looking for a church that fears Him.***

***I also want you to notice this...***

- The sailors came to fear the LORD...IN SPITE OF Jonah!
- That means that God can use whoever He wants, however He wants, to make Himself known...

***God WILL accomplish His purposes.***

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

### **Someone said it this way:**

- When God works through our obedience...we get to SHARE in the blessing.
- When God works in spite of our disobedience...we MISS it.

In fact, notice where Jonah was when these sailors feared the LORD and worshipped Him...

**Vs. 17** tells us...Jonah was in the belly of a great fish...

### **Hey Christian:**

I don't know about you....

But I don't want to miss seeing The LORD work...

I don't want to be sitting in the belly of a great fish...because I wouldn't go where God wanted me to go...

**Those who FEAR THE LORD will show the world WHO THE LORD IS! (Richard Phillips)**

**When The Church Fears The Lord, The World Sees Who The Lord Is.**

### **Transition:**

**So why doesn't the world around us fear God?**

Maybe it's because...far too often...the church looks a lot like Jonah.

- We know the right words...
  - ...*"I fear the LORD"*...
- But we're running in disobedience...
- While the world around us is rowing for their lives.

**But when the church truly fears the Lord...**

**The world sees who the Lord truly is.**

So what does that look like in our lives today?

## **Applications**

### **1. Fear the Lord More Than You Fear the World**

**Remember the escalation of fear on this boat?**

- At first... they were afraid of the STORM.
- Then... they were afraid of what Jonah had DONE.
- But their **GREATEST FEAR** came... when they saw the sea go still...And they feared a great fear...THE LORD.

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

As a church, we walked through ***The Gospel of Mark*** in **2024** and **2025**...and I couldn't help but think of **Mark 4** when I read this passage this week...

- Jesus was asleep on the boat...
- A big storm came...
- The disciples were afraid of the storm...
- When they had the God ***WHO RULES AND REIGNS OVER ALL THINGS*** in the boat with them...
- But their ***GREATEST*** fear came...
- When Jesus calmed the storm simply by HIS WORD.
- Their greatest fear was when they caught a glimpse of The Holiness of God!

***John MacArthur said...***

*Fear is a natural response for sinful humans in the presence of a Holy God.*

***All throughout Scripture...***

When people come face to face with the holiness of God...  
They respond with fear and trembling...

***In fact, 1 Peter 2:17 commands us...***  
***To Fear God.***

***So what does it mean to fear God?***

- It means we recognize the HOLINESS...the OTHERNESS of God...
  - That He is not like us...
  - That He is in charge...
  - That He rules and reigns over everything...
- And nothing is beyond His power or outside of His control.

***It means...we live with a constant awareness of WHO HE IS...And WHO WE ARE.***

***Now I want you to hear me clearly...***

- Fearing God doesn't mean cowering in His presence...
- Like we're not just waiting for God to be mad at us or to squash us.

***For Christians...***

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

We live like children enjoying our Father's presence...  
With a healthy respect for who He is.

**Charles Spurgeon** put it this way...

*"Let a childlike fear of offending your Great Father ever restrain you from sin."*

***I think about my own kids...***

- They're not scared of me.
- My littles will climb up in my lap and snuggle with me...
- But there's a respect there.
- They know the expectations when I tell them to do something...
- And they don't want to disappoint me...
- Because they know I love them, and they love me....

***That's what it means to fear God.***

- We don't obey Him to get Him to love us...
- We obey Him BECAUSE He loves us...
- And we don't want to dishonor the One who saved us.

Jonah SAID, ***"I fear the LORD"*** ...

- But his life told us...he was **MORE** afraid of God's mercy going to the wrong people...
- Than he was of disobeying the God who made the sea and the dry land.

***AND I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER...***

If we too can often get our fears out of order...

***I can't help but wonder...if we too***

- Can be more afraid of what people think...
- Of what people say about us
- ***Than we are of*** what God thinks and says about us

**Proverbs 29:25** tells us...

*"The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe."*

***HEY, what about you...***

- ***Do you fear people MORE than you fear THE LORD?***

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

- Not just the words you say...
- ***But what story is your life telling?***

***Are you like Jonah, who said I fear God...***

- but you're running in disobedience?...

***Or do you have a healthy respect for God...***

- That no matter what others may think, say, or do...
- You're like...I've gotta walk in obedience to God?

***I read a great book last year called...***

***"When People Are Big, and God Is Small"***

- Maybe today...God's gotten small in your life...
- And people have gotten big...

***What would it look like in your life to reverse that....***

***Today...would you be reminded of THE HOLINESS OF God?***

- He rules over every storm.
- He rules over every sea.
- He rules over every person you're afraid of.
- And nothing is beyond His power... or outside of His control.

***Let's be a church WHO FEARS THE LORD!***

- That in our lives....
  - God is BIG!
  - And people are small...

***Because when the church fears the Lord...***

***The world sees who the Lord is.***

## ***2. Show the World THE LORD NOT An Oar***

***Remember what these sailors in vs. 9...when Jonah told them***

***WHO THE LORD IS...***

***They were terrified...***

But they still grabbed their oars and were trying to save themselves and Jonah...

***It wasn't until vs. 14***

- When they had nothing left inside of them...
- That they finally stopped rowing...

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

- **And CALLED OUT to THE LORD...**

*I wonder how many people around us are just like those sailors...*

- Maybe they've HEARD of the LORD...
- Maybe they've been to church a few times...
- But when a storm hits...
- They still grab an oar.

**AND these sailors didn't need a better oar...**

- They needed to stop rowing...
- And CALL ON the LORD.

**When the church doesn't FEAR the Lord...**

- We may be communicating to the world around us...
- Pick up an Oar and get to rowing....

*I wonder how often WE can do that...*

- **A friend's marriage is falling apart...**
  - and we send them a podcast.
- **A coworker is drowning in anxiety...**
  - and we tell them to take a vacation.
- **A family member is wrecked by guilt...**
  - And we tell them..."You're a good person...don't be so hard on yourself."

**Now not all of those things are bad things...**

- But the MOST IMPORTANT THING that a drowning person needs... isn't an oar so they can row harder...
- **IT'S THE LORD WHO RULES OVER THE WIND AND THE WAVES!**

**The world doesn't need more advice from the church...**

- **The WORLD needs to CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE HOLINESS OF GOD!**
- **THE WORLD** needs to **HEAR** about the Rescuer who went under the storm for us.

**So when somebody around you is in the middle of their storm  
What are you handing them?**

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

- Something to row harder with...
- Or a rescuer named Jesus Christ?

### **Hey Church...**

May the world around us...look at this church called Harvey Baptist...

- And not just see a group of people who gather in a building on Sundays...
- Who know all the right words...

**BUT MAY THEY SEE A PEOPLE WHO FEAR AND KNOW THE LORD!**

**And because of that...CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HIS HOLINESS!**

**"Those who fear the Lord will show the world who the Lord is."**

### **Application 3: Stop Rowing and Run to THE LORD**

**Maybe you're in here today...**

And you've heard God's Word today...

And you're thinking...I'm the one that's been rowing in the storm instead of running to the LORD....

**Today, I want to share with you the GOOD NEWS from God's WORD:**

#### **God is Holy.**

God created all things, and God alone is perfect.

He can do nothing wrong, and He is the definition of Holiness.

He is set apart from everything that is ordinary and not good.

#### **Humans are Sinful.**

We all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we've all done something wrong, against God's law, which is sin.

#### **This creates a problem**

Because our sin separates us from God in this life and the next.

The storm we deserve...is the storm of God's righteous wrath against our sin...

And no amount of rowing harder...can outrun that storm...

#### **Jesus is the answer**

BUT GOD loved us so much... that God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, who came to Earth as a baby, fully God and fully man. And Jesus lived a fully perfect, sinless life here on Earth, but yet Jesus willingly went to the cross and died for your sins and my sins.

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

And Jesus really died, He was really buried, and He really rose from the grave on the third day...defeating sin and death.

So today, you don't have to remain hopeless, but you can have a rescuer named Jesus Christ!

If you turn from your sins, believe and have faith in Jesus Christ, and follow Him, then you will be rescued from your sin that separates you from God.

Because Jesus got what He did not deserve, death on a cruel cross, and received the full weight of the wrath of God...

We can get what we do not deserve, forgiveness and salvation from the storm of the wrath of God that we deserve...

### ***HEY Today,***

I don't know where you're at...

Maybe you're in this "just try harder" mentality...

### ***But I want to tell you the truth...***

- You...trying harder against the wrath of God...
- Is like trying to row a boat through a hurricane...
- You can't do it on your own....

### ***But today...***

- You can receive a rescuer...
  - Who went under the wrath of God...so you don't have to
- Today, if God's Word has spoken to you, would you cry out to Him to save you?

### ***Fearing THE LORD...***

***Looks like letting Him RULE AND REIGN OVER YOUR LIFE!***

### ***Today:***

If God **HAS** rescued you, would you rejoice in Your Redeemer?

- And then would you not hold that Good News for yourself...
- But you would **GO TELL AND SHOW OTHERS...THE HOPE THAT IS IN JESUS CHRIST AS A RESCUER!**

## ***Big Idea***

***When The Church Fears The Lord, The World Sees Who The Lord Is.***

**Church, I love you!**

## Jonah 1.7-17 | When The Church Fears The Lord

**Let's Pray!**