

## Lessons from Sea World

(Jonah)

4.21.24

Jonah 1:1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: <sup>2</sup>“Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

<sup>3</sup>But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup>All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep.<sup>6</sup>The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.”

<sup>7</sup>Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. <sup>8</sup>So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”

<sup>9</sup>He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

<sup>10</sup>This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)

<sup>11</sup>The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

<sup>12</sup>“Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”

<sup>13</sup>Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. <sup>14</sup>Then they cried out to the LORD, “Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, LORD, have done as you pleased.” <sup>15</sup>Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. <sup>16</sup>At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

<sup>17</sup>Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

I. Disobedience creates misery

Obedience is not always convenient  
Obedience is always easier than disobedience  
Disobedience creates misery

2. Misery creates a climate for obedience

Misery gets our attention  
Conscience

II Sam 12: <sup>13</sup>David responded to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

Then Nathan replied to David, “And the LORD has taken away your sin; you will not die.

## Catastrophe

Matt 14:29 <sup>28</sup> "Lord, if it's you," Peter answered him, "command me to come to you on the water."

<sup>29</sup> He said, "Come."

And climbing out of the boat, Peter started walking on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the strength of the wind, <sup>31</sup> he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

## Coffin

Acts 5: <sup>3</sup> "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the proceeds of the land? <sup>4</sup> Wasn't it yours while you possessed it? And after it was sold, wasn't it at your disposal? Why is it that you planned this thing in your heart? You have not lied to people but to God." <sup>5</sup> When he heard these words, Ananias dropped dead, and a great fear came on all who heard.

Misery helps us think about the important stuff

Jonah 2:1 Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish:

<sup>2</sup> I called to the LORD in my distress,  
and he answered me.  
I cried out for help from deep inside<sup>a</sup> Sheol;  
you heard my voice.

Misery prompts us to embrace right priorities

Jonah 2:

As my life was fading away,  
I remembered the LORD,  
and my prayer came to you,  
to your holy temple.  
<sup>8</sup> Those who cherish worthless idols  
abandon their faithful love,

<sup>9</sup> but as for me, I will sacrifice to you  
with a voice of thanksgiving.  
I will fulfill what I have vowed.  
Salvation<sup>9</sup> belongs to the LORD.