

****Three Storms, One God ****

What Jonah, Paul, and the Disciples teach us about God in the storm.

**** Scripture readings-Study ****

****Jonah 1–4; Acts 27; Matthew 14:17–33:** (John 21:1-14)**

- **How the three storms differ—and what each reveal about God’s power.**

* In the stories, God is sovereign over the storms—He raises or allows them and directs their outcome.

* Each storm becomes a moment of revelation: people are confronted with who God is and how they must respond.

* In all the stories, lives are preserved, though the ship in Acts 27 is lost and Jonah’s survival takes a miraculous detour through the great fish.

- # 1. Jonah’s storm (Jonah 1): ****God’s power to confront and correct****

****What’s happening****

- Jonah is a prophet running from God’s command to go to Nineveh.

- “The LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea” (Jonah 1:4-6). This storm is directly attributed to God.

Jonah 1:4 -6. 4. **But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea,** and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. 5 Then the **mariners were afraid,** and each cried **out to his god.** And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. **But Jonah** had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and **was fast asleep.** 6 So the captain came and said to him, **“What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish.”**

****Why does this storm come**??**

****Discipline and course-correction.****

- The storm exposes Jonah’s rebellion and forces a decision: keep running, or surrender.

“ Cause”

* **Jonah’s storm is disciplinary—**God responds to Jonah’s flight and disobedience (**Jonah 1:3-4**). **3 But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.**

Jonah 1:4 But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up.

- **It exposes sin and forces repentance and confession.**

****How God’s power is revealed****

- **Power over creation:**** God ***sends*** the storm and later ***stops*** it instantly when Jonah is thrown into the sea (**1:15-16**).

- **Power over the human heart:** pagan sailors move from fear to worship—“they feared the LORD exceedingly... and made vows” (1:16).
- **Power to save through judgment:** Jonah’s “death-like” descent becomes rescue (fish, repentance, second chance). God’s power is not only to punish but to restore.

****Main message****

- Some storms are not random; they are mercy with teeth—God interrupting our self-destruction.

• **# 2). Paul’s storm (Acts 27): God’s power to keep His promises and preserve life**

****What’s happening****

- Paul is a prisoner being transported to Rome.
- A violent storm (“nor’easter”) overtakes the ship, and they lose control, eventually shipwrecking.

****Why does this storm come**??**

- **Not presented as punishment for Paul.** In fact, Paul is in God’s will, headed toward Rome as part of his calling.
- * Paul’s storm is providential—not punishment but part of God’s plan to bring Paul to Rome and to bear witness along the way,

Acts 27:23-24

- **23 For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, 24 and he said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.’**
- * It tests and proves faithfulness and creates opportunity.
- **The storm becomes the stage** on which God’s promise is displayed: “You must stand before Caesar... God has granted you all those who sail with you”.

****How God’s power is revealed****

- **Power over outcomes even when the ship is lost:** God doesn’t promise comfort; He promises purpose and preservation.
- **Power to save many through one faithful witness:** 276 lives are spared, not because everyone believes, but because God’s word through Paul stands.
- **Power that works through wisdom and obedience:** Paul tells them what to do (eat, stay with the ship, don’t abandon ship). God’s sovereignty doesn’t cancel human responsibility; it makes it meaningful.

****Main message****

- Some storms come not to correct sin, but to **confirm calling** and to show that God can keep you even when everything external falls apart.

*** Posture of the 2 Main character:**

- * **Jonah is asleep**, running, hiding—resisting God and reactive when confronted.

* Paul is alert, prophetic, and pastoral—he warns the crew, comforts them, and leads them in obedience and hope.

* Mechanism of deliverance:

* Jonah's deliverance involves sacrificial substitution (Jonah thrown overboard; **the sea calms**), and **then miraculous rescue** (the fish).

* Paul's deliverance comes as a promise from God, practical obedience to Paul's guidance, and physical preservation of lives despite material loss.

- Outcome for the mission:

* **Jonah's storm** reorients him toward mission—he reluctantly goes to Nineveh and the city repents.

* **Paul's storm** advances the mission—shipwreck on Malta leads to further ministry and ultimately to Paul's witness in Rome.

****Storm, #3:****

- # 3. The disciples' storm (Matthew 14:17–33): ****God's power made personal in Jesus****

Unauthorized storm,

Matthew 14:17-21. 17 They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." 18 And he said, "Bring them here to me." 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Matthew 14:22-27 22 Immediately, he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

Matthew 14:28-33. 28. And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

****What's happening****

- After feeding the 5,000, Jesus sends the disciples ahead in a boat.
- A storm rises; they struggle all night. Jesus comes walking on the water.

****Why does this storm come****

- It's not framed as discipline like Jonah's.
- It's not primarily about reaching Rome like Paul's.
- It's a storm of ****revelation and formation****: Jesus is teaching them who He is—and training their trust.

****How God's power is revealed****

- ****Power over natural laws:**** Jesus walks on the sea; the sea is under His feet.
- ****Power that speaks peace:**** "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid" (14:27). His presence is stronger than the storm.
- ****Power that receives worship:**** when He gets into the boat, and the wind ceases, they worship: "Truly you are the Son of God" (14:33).
- This storm reveals not only God's sovereignty, but ****God's nearness****—God with us in the boat.

****Main message****

- Some storms are allowed so faith becomes more than theory: the disciples learn to worship Jesus not just as teacher, but as Lord. The word "Lord" is used over 7 thousand times in the bible

Putting them side-by-side (quick comparison)

| Story | Who is in the storm? | Why the storm? | What does God do? | What is revealed about God's power?

- ****Jonah 1-4**** | A runaway prophet + pagan sailors | Discipline/correction | Sends storm; calms it; rescues Jonah | God rules creation to confront sin and extend mercy |
- ****Acts 27**** | A faithful apostle + soldiers/sailors | Providence/mission | Promises survival; guides through wisdom; saves all | God keeps His word and preserves life even through wreckage |
- ****Matt 14**** | Disciples (and Peter) | Revelation/faith formation | Walks on water; speaks peace; stills wind | Jesus exercises divine authority and draws worship |

Big takeaway: "Three storms, one God."

- ****Jonah:**** God is powerful enough to *stop you*.
- ****Paul:**** God is powerful enough to *keep you*.
- ****Disciples:**** God is powerful enough to *meet you*—and reveal Himself so you worship.

****After the resurrection (post-cross)****

Jesus cooked breakfast for his disciples on the shore of Lake Galilee, serving them bread and fish, as described in **John 21:1–17**. This event occurred when the disciples were fishing, and Jesus told them to cast their net to the right side of the boat.

After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. (John 21:1 ESV)

Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.
(John 21:3 ESV)

Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "**Children**, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish.
(John 21:4-6 ESV)

That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "**It is the Lord!**" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, **he put on his outer garment**, for **he was stripped** for work, and **threw himself into the sea**.
(John 21:7 ESV)

When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread.
(John 21:9 ESV)

10 Jesus said to them, "**Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.**"

11 So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn.

12 Jesus said to them, "**Come and have breakfast.**" Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "**Who are you?**" They knew it was the Lord. **13** Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish.

14 This was now the **third time (3 storm truths)** that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.
(John 21: 10-14)

- ****What Kind of Storm are you in Today?***

1. ****The storm that corrects**** (Jonah) — "You can run, but God's mercy will chase."
2. ****The storm that preserves**** (Paul) — "You can lose the ship and still keep the promise."
3. ****The storm that reveals**** (Disciples) — "You can be terrified and still meet the Lord of wind and waves."