



God's Love Drives the Storm

Jonah 1:4-17

God doesn't cause every storm, but he controls every storm, and he works through every storm (Jam 1:2-4; Rom 8:28).

Big Idea: God sends storms because he loves us; so, trust God to work through the storm.

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."

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.

¹¹ Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea [raged and walked]. 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. 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.

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. (Jon 1:4-17 ESV)

Big Idea: God sends storms because he loves us; so, trust God to work through the storm.

God's love drives the storm.

Scene 1: The great storm (vv. 4-6).

Scene 2: The search for a solution (vv. 7-10).

Scene 3: The guilt-ridden prophet (vv. 11-12).

Scene 4: Embrace Love (vv. 13-17).

Scene 1: The great storm (vv. 4-5).

⁴ But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship [thought about] break[ing] up. ⁵ Then the [salty ones] 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.

The characters:

(who do you relate to?)

- i. Wind obeys (v. 4).
- ii. Boat shows concern (v. 5).
- iii. Salty sailors fear God (v. 5a).
- iv. Jonah sleeps (v. 5b).
- v. Sea rages about sin (v. 11).

Lesson: Find purpose in the storm.

- i. God reveals Himself (power, love, etc) to us.
- ii. Difficulty wakes us up.
- iii. Storms can bring us to repentance.
- iv. Hard times equip us to serve better.
- v. Storms make us more like Jesus.

Scene 2: The search for a solution (vv. 7-10).

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. ... 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!"

Lesson 1: Your sin will be exposed.

- i. We cannot hide from God (Heb 4:13-15).
- ii. Our sin will be revealed (vv. 8-10; Lk 12:2).
- iii. Sin has consequences (Rom 6:23; Jn 8:34).

Lesson 2: Our sin hurts others.

- i. The sailors lost cargo because of Jonah (v. 5).
- ii. The sailors fear for their lives (vv. 6, 10)

Scene 3: The guilt-ridden prophet (vv. 11-12).

¹¹ Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea [raged and walked]. 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."

Lesson: Sin hurts us.

- i. Sin causes storms (v. 11; Rom 8:20-22).
- ii. Sin causes pain/depression (v. 13).
- iii. Sin results in a lack of care for others (vv. 13; 4:3).

Scene 4: Embrace love (vv. 13-17).

¹³ Nevertheless, the men [dug in] to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. 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."

Lesson: Love wins.

- i. The sailors love Jonah (v. 13).
- ii. God loves the sailors (v. 14. 16).
- iii. God loves smelly sinners/Jonah (v. 17).
- iv. Love people like God (and sailors) love Jonah.

In the middle of life's storms, trust God and let the storm do its work.