

The Prophet's Resignation (Jonah 1:8-16)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. *Willoughby* (how the pressure of life causes people to seek to escape)
 - B. Jonah's '*Willoughby*' – a ship to Tarshish; sleeping through a storm
 - C. Charting our course for the sermon and reading the text
- II. **Jonah fesses up (Jonah 1:8-11)**
 - A. The mariner's questions force Jonah to identify himself as a worshipper of Yahweh
 1. anonymity brings freedom from responsibility
 2. do these words constitute a real confession?
 - a. verse 10 suggest that indeed it does
 - B. Jonah confessed, but the storm rages on, in fact it grew worse
 1. confession is only the first step of repentance
 2. circumstances can get worse after confessing a sin, but this is no sign of the ineffectiveness of the practice of confession
 3. Was Jonah's confession a sign of true repentance?
 - a. It is the view of most commentators that it is
 - b. Departing from the idea of most commentators, I do not believe it is true repentance
- III. **Jonah gives up (Jonah 1:11-14)**
 - A. Ideas as to why Jonah gave up
 1. perhaps he thought he could not repent (he sinned away all opportunity)
 2. he failed to understand God's mercy to the undeserving
 - B. Jonah's hopeless condition and final selfish attempt to escape
 - C. Jonah seeks to self-atone for his sin
 - D. Meanwhile the pagan mariners treat Jonah with patience and grace
 1. How different is their attitude toward 'innocent blood' than that of the religious leaders who crucified Jesus (Mt 27:25)
 2. They cry out to Yahweh and submit to His will
- IV. **Jonah sinks down (Jonah 1:15)**
 - A. Jonah resolves that all is over – he resigns even at the threat of hell
 - B. Dealing with the reality of the feeling of "depression" (2 Sam 15:30, Psalm 43:5, 42:3,5,11, 61:2, Lam 3:20, Jn 14:1)
 1. Confess your sin (Ja 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9)
 2. Preach to your soul (Ps 43:5, Ja 1:2-4, Ro 5:2-5)
 3. View your depression through the lens of Scripture (2 Pet 1:3)
 4. Think about what God is doing for you in the trial (Ps 119:71)
 5. Don't deny your despair, invite other to pray for you
 6. Look to encourage someone else (2 Cor 1:3-4)
 7. Remind yourself often of Christ and the Gospel
- V. **The good news (Jonah 1:16)**
 - A. Gentile sailors are transformed into worshippers of Yahweh
 - B. Jonah as a type of Christ