

“Struggling In The Storm”
Jonah 1:11-13

Introduction:

1. Before We Have The Lord’s Supper This Morning:
 - I Want Us To Head Beck To Jonah 1!
 - Where God Had Finally Gotten Jonah’s Attention!
 - And Jonah Finally Realizes What He Did!
 - And Jonah Declares – In His Own Words - In The Middle Of This Great Storm - In Verse 9 - His Faith In & His Fear Of The One True God - “The God Of Heaven, Which Hath Made The Sea And The Dry Land!” (1:9)
 - And With These Words: Jonah Even Tells His Shipmates:
 - That The Only One Who Could Help Them Through This Storm Is The Lord!
 - The One Who Sent The Storm After Him In The First Place!
2. So, If Jonah Finally Recognized His Guilt:
 - And Confessed His Sin:
 - A Question Comes To Mind:
 - “Why Does The Storm Continue?”
 - “Why Doesn’t It Stop?”
 - In 1:11-13 - We Not Only See The Storm Continuing:
 - But It Even Seems To Be Getting Stronger!
 - At The End Of Each Verse We Will Look At This Morning:
 - We Hear About The Raging Sea!
 - I Believe That There Are 2 Main Reasons Why The Storm Continues:
 - First - Because Even Though:
 - Jonah Recognized His Guilt & Confessed His Sin:
 - Something More Was Needed!
 - A Terrible Crime Had Been Committed!
 - And Justice Still Had To Be Done!
 - **IE:** A Murderer May Admit His Guilt & Confess His Crime, But He Must Still Do His Time!
Justice Still Has To Be Done!
 - Second - Because:
 - God Had Even More Of His Grace To Spread!
 - As 1 Timothy 2:4 Reminds Us That God Is One: “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth!”
 - God’s Focus & Attention Was On Jonah:
 - Until He Responded To Him!
 - But Now - In These Verses - There Is A Shift:
 - In God’s Focus & Attention!
3. Now, God Sets His Sights On The Sailors In That Ship!
 - The Ones Who Were Directly Impacted By Jonah’s Sin!
 - God Was Using This Storm To Wake Them Up & To Get Their Attention As Well!
 - **IE:** Like An Alarm Clock That Wakes Up Everyone In The Room Or Even House!
 - So - While This Storm Continues:
 - The Sailors Ask Just One More Question To Jonah!
 - 1:11-13 - “Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous. / And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you. / Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them!”
 - Both Believers & Unbelievers:
 - Christians & Non-Christians - Can Be Impacted By The Same Storms & The Problems Of Life!
 - And Just As Christians Need To Respond To God:
 - In These Times – Like Jonah Did!
 - Unbelievers Need To Respond To God:
 - In These Times Also – Like The Sailors Will Do!
 - How Can We Handle These Storms? We Must:

1. Respond To The Storms!

- Respond To The Storms Of Life!
 - From The Moment This Storm Came Upon Their Ship, The Sailors Knew That Something Was Wrong!
 - And They Tried Everything They Could Think Of To Save Themselves, But Nothing Worked!
 - They Tried Praying! Didn't Work!
 - Prayed To The Wrong God!
 - They Tried To Lighten The Ship!
 - They Threw The Wrong Cargo Overboard!
 - Then: They Cast Lots!
 - And Finally The Truth Of Jonah's Sin Came Out Into The Open!
 - But The Storm Raged On!
 - Even After Jonah Started To Repent Of His Disobedience To God!
 - So Now What?
- 1:11 - "Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous!"
 - How Did These Unbelieving Sailors Respond:
 - To The Storm They Were In?
- They Had A Plan!
 - A Quickly Devised Plan To Go To Jonah - The Source Of This Storm!
 - And Find Out The Solution!
 - And Still Gripped By Great Fear:
 - They Ask Him - "What Shall We Do Unto Thee?"
 - These Sailors Felt Like They Had To **DO** Something!
 - Either With Jonah Or To Jonah!
 - These Sailors Were **Doers!**
 - But They Knew All Of Their Earlier Efforts Had Failed!
 - And There Was Only One Who Could Help Them Now!
 - This Too Is How You Must Respond To The Storms In Your Life!
 - Realize That Something Has To Be Done!
 - But It Is Not Something You Can Do!
 - It Must Be Done For You! By Someone Else!
- They Needed A Peace!
 - What Motivated Them To Go To Jonah?
 - Because They Wanted Peace! They Needed Peace!
 - "That The Sea May Be Calm Unto Us?"
 - So Often People, Like The Sailors, Just Want Peace!
 - Peace In Life! Peace Of Mind! In Heart!
 - We Might Even Start To Feel A Little Sorry For These Sailors!
 - After All, It Was Jonah's Fault They Were In This Mess!
 - But Don't Feel Sorry For Them!
 - Or For Anyone Who Is Lacking Peace!
 - Instead - Be Glad For Them!
 - Because They Now Have The Opportunity To Experience The Grace & Peace That God Alone Can Offer!
 - Psalm 107:23-31 Describes What God Was Doing In The Lives – Not Just Of His Prophet Jonah – But Of These Sailors!
 - "They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; / These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep. / For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. / They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. / They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end. / Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. / He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. / Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven. / Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"
 - The Sailors Wanted Peace From The Storm!
 - God Wanted Them To Have Peace From Their Sin!
 - Yet, Their Eyes Were Still Shut:
 - To What God Was Trying To Show Them!
 - And All They Saw Was That:

- There Remained A Problem!
 - “For The Sea Wrought, And Was Tempestuous!”
 - The Waves Were Moving Fiercely!
 - Up & Down & All Around!
 - **IE:** Have You Ever Experienced This Kind Of Water? Years Ago, On A Day-Trip From Scotland To Belfast, Northern Ireland - Very Rough!
 - But The Wind & The Waves Of That Storm:
 - Were Getting Worse!
- Those Sailors Did Respond To The Storm In Their Lives!
 - They Even Went To The Right Person:
 - Jonah!
 - But Their Eyes Were Still On The Sea!
 - And Not On The One Who Controlled The Sea!
 - **IE:** Kind Of Like Peter, After He Started Walking On The Water To Jesus!
 - What Do You Do When You Face A Storm In Your Life?
 - What Is Your Plan?
 - Do You Have One?
 - Do You Plan To Just Ride It Out?
 - Do You Plan To Just Resign Yourself To Its Fate?
 - Or Will You Seek Help While Help May Still Be Found?
 - Isaiah 55:6 - “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near!” - God Was Very Near Those Sailors In Their Ship In That Storm!
 - Where Is Your Peace?
 - Do You Desire It?
 - Not Just External, But Internal!
 - Why Is Your Problem Still There:
 - And Seems To Be Getting Worse?
- ***Don't Ignore The Storms You Face In Your Life!***
 - God Is Using Them In Your Life!
 - You Should Tell This To Unbelievers As Well!
 - Because They Are Often In The Same Boat That You Are!
 - **IE:** Think About The Christian Doctors & Nurses In Africa Who Were Helping & Then Were Infected With The Ebola Virus - It Was The Same Storm - But With A Different Response!
 - You Need To Respond To The Storms That God Is Sending & Allowing In Your Life Before It Is Too Late & Your Ship Capsizes Into The Sea!
 - How Else Can You Handle These Storms?

2. ***Rest In The Solution!***

- Rest In The Solution Provided By God!
- In 1:12 - We See An Amazing Turn Of Events!
 - Now, Jonah Becomes God's Solution For The Problem – The Storm – The Sailors Were Facing!
 - “And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you!”
 - After God Dealt With Jonah Through This Same Storm:
 - Jonah Now Reveals What It Will Take For The Sailors To Be Safe & Have Their Peace!
 - What Did This Solution Involve?
- There Was A Penalty To Be Paid!
 - “Take Me Up” – Jonah Tells Them / And Commands Them – “And Cast Me Forth Into The Sea!”
 - Jonah Knew He Was Guilty!
 - Jonah Knew He Was The Cause Of This Storm!
 - And Jonah Knew That Justice Had To Be Done!
 - Jonah Knew That He Deserved To Die For His Disobedience Against God!
 - Ezekiel 18:4 - “The Soul That Sinneth, It Shall Die!”
 - This Too Is A Sign Of Repentance From Sin!
 - A Willingness To Accept Whatever Penalty & Punishment Is Given!
 - Why Didn't Jonah Just Throw Himself Overboard?
 - Because Suicide Is Not Justice!
 - So Jonah Was Willing To Surrender!

- An Unconditional Surrender To God!
- And The Sailors Had To Trust That Jonah's Death Would Be Enough For Them To Have Peace!
- There Was A Provision To Be Made!
 - Jonah Continues In 1:12 - "So Shall The Sea Be Calm Unto You!"
 - How Did Jonah Know This Would Happen?
 - How Could He Be So Certain?
 - I Believe, It Is Because Jonah Is Once Again Serving In His Role As The Prophet Of God!
 - He Could Only Have Known This If God Revealed It To Him, Right Then & There!
 - Jonah Was Willing To Serve!
 - To Serve These Sailors!
 - He Had A Renewed Concern For These Men On The Ship!
 - Now, All The Sailors Had To Do Was Act On Jonah's Instructions!
- There Was A Purpose To Be Accomplished!
 - Jonah Adds In 1:12 - "For I Know That For My Sake This Great Tempest Is Upon You!"
 - Jonah Identifies Himself Once Again:
 - As The Problem!
 - And So: Jonah Was Willing To Save!
 - To Be God's Instrument To Save These Men From The Storm!
- In All Of This - Jonah Is Offering Himself For These Men:
 - Willingly!
 - Not Just To Suffer For His Own Sin! Deserved!
 - But To Save The Others In The Boat From The Storm!
 - And Right Here - We Begin To See Jonah:
 - As Jesus Describes Him In The Gospels!
 - As "The Sign Of The Prophet Jonah!"
 - Jonah - Even Before He Is Thrown Overboard:
 - Is Starting To Point Us To The Greatest Solution, The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Jesus Willingly Surrendered:
 - To The Will Of The Father!
 - So That The Penalty Of Sin Could Be Paid!
 - But, Unlike Jonah, Jesus Paid For Sins That Were Not His Own!
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21 - "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him!"
 - Jesus Willingly Served:
 - Those Who Were Sinners!
 - So That He Could Provide The Peace That We Needed With God!
 - And Jesus Willingly Saves:
 - All Those Who Put Their Trust In Him Alone!
- If Only The Sailors In That Ship Would Have Listened To Jonah!
 - And Rest In The Solution God Gave Them!
 - All They Had To Do Was Pick Jonah Up & Throw Him Overboard!
 - But Do We Listen To The Lord?
 - And Do You Rest In The Solution God Has Given You?
 - The Solution For Your Sin? Your Storms?
 - Jonah Here Is A Sign - Pointing Us To:
 - Jesus! The Ultimate Solution! Our Only Solution!
 - Rest In Him!
 - ***Don't Ignore The Solution You Have Been Given!***
 - Our Solution Is Jesus!
 - The One Who Is "Greater Than Jonah!"
 - How Else Can We Handle These Storms?

3. ***Resist The Struggle!***

- Resist The Urge To Struggle Through These Storms On Your Own!
- In 1:13 - We Find The Sailors:
 - Not Listening To Jonah & The Solution He Provides!
 - "Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them!"

- The Continuing Struggle Was Ignorant!
 - The Sailors Heard What Jonah Told Them! (See 1:14-15)
 - He Was Their Only Solution! And He Just Told Them To Throw Him Overboard!
 - But They Ignored Jonah's Instructions!
 - Why Wouldn't They Listen To The Man Who Was The Cause Of Their Plight?
- The Continuing Struggle Was Irrational!
 - Instead Of Listening To Jonah & Following His Instructions:
 - "Nevertheless The Men Rowed Hard To Bring It To The Land!"
 - They Literally Dug The Oars Of Their Ship:
 - Deep Into The Waters Of The Sea!
 - **IE:** We Would Often Do This With Our Canoe On The Susquehanna River - To Go Faster Or To Go Upstream - Dig! Dig! Dig! They Dug!
 - This Might Work On A Slower-Moving River Like The Susquehanna!
 - But Not In A Raging Sea & Storm!
 - And These Sailors Would Have Known This!
 - They Rowed, Rowed, Rowed Their Boat:
 - Contrary To The Wind & The Waves!
 - Contrary To Their Own Wisdom!
 - In The Mediterranean Sea, It Was Usually Safer To Just Let The Ship Ride Through The Storm!
 - Contrary To The Word Of Jonah!
 - And - Mostly - Contrary To The Will Of God!
 - They Kept Doing What They Knew How To Do!
 - What They Were Familiar With!
 - What They Thought Might Work!
 - Isn't This A Picture Of What We Do, When We Take Our Own Storms & Even Our Own Sins Into Our Own Hands!
 - And Try To Solve Things On Our Own!
 - This Is Irrational!
 - ***You Can't Do The Impossible!***
- The Continuing Struggle Was Impossible!
 - "But They Could Not!"
 - Their Problem Was Impossible To Solve On Their Own!
 - This Divine Storm Required A Divine Solution!
 - In Spite Of All:
 - Their Knowledge & Experience & Effort!\
 - They Were Giving It Their All!
 - But To No Avail!
 - Why?
 - "For The Sea Wrought, And Was Tempestuous Against Them!"
 - It Was "Against Them!"
 - And Likely Getting Worse & Worse!
 - "God Would Allow No Effort, However Well Meant, To Baffle His Purpose!" (Hugh Martin)
 - And So They Failed!
- Doesn't This Describe Your Struggle:
 - When You Think You Can Handle:
 - Your Storms & Your Sin On Your Own?
 - But - You Can't!
 - If You Keep Struggling Through Them:
 - It Is Ignorant, Irrational, Impossible!
 - Stop Your Struggle!
 - ***Stop Trying To Do The Impossible!***
 - And Find Rest In The Solution God Provides For You!

Conclusion:

1. God Uses Storms:
 - To Get The Attention Of Everyone In This World!
 - Believers - Like Jonah - Like Many Of You!

- And Unbelievers - Like The Sailors - And, Perhaps, Like Some Of You!
 - How Will You Handle These Storms?
 - How Will You Handle Your Sin?
 - You Need To: ***Respond To The Storms In Your Life!***
 - Do Not Ignore Them!
 - And Do Not Ignore God's Purpose For Them!
 - Isaiah 55:6 - "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near!" -
God Is Near You When These Storms Come!
 - Then, You Need To: ***Rest In The Solution Provided By God!***
 - Do Not Ignore Your Savior!
 - Do Not Ignore The Word Of God!
 - Instead - Follow The Words Of Jesus In Matthew 11:28 - "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest!"
 - You Also Need To: ***Resist The Urge To Keep Struggling On Your Own!***
 - Don't Just Keep Digging In!
 - Don't Just Keep Rowing Your Own Boat!
 - Instead: Stop Your Struggle!
 - Stop Trying To Do The Impossible!
 - And Find Rest In The Solution God Provides For You!
2. This Is How We Must Handle:
- The Storms In Our Lives!
 - And The Sins In Our Hearts!

* I Surrender All!

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