

Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

Jonah: The Depths of God's Mercies

Message 2: Big Fish, Bigger Lessons

Jonah 1:4-7 (ESV)

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.

Lesson 1: _____ has _____ everywhere! (CHS)

"... a great wind ...", "... a mighty tempest ..." (Later, "... a great fish ...")

Lesson 2: Our sins have their own _____

A few of the *inherent* consequences of sin:

- 1) _____ SIN
- 2) _____ SIN (the "TABOO Principle")
- 3) _____
- 4) Loss of God's _____
- 5) Broken _____ with God
- 6) Impact on _____
- 7) Whatever outcome that particular principle, precept, or command was designed to help us avoid ...

And ultimately ...

- 8) a lost _____

Jonah 1:8 (ESV)

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?"

Jonah's response:

Jonah 1:9-12 (ESV)

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 grew more and more tempestuous. 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."

This is where Jonah finally got it right! Up to this point in the story, Jonah's example was everything you should NOT do. Now Jonah comes clean with a clear _____!

Components of true repentance:

- a) Honest admission of _____
- b) I have no _____ / _____
- c) I deserve _____

The surprising mercy of the sailors:

Jonah 1:13-14 (ESV)

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."

The sailors ...

But when all failed ...

Jonah 1:15a (ESV)

¹⁵ So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea ...

What happened next is amazing on _____ fronts!

Jonah 1:15b-16 (ESV)

¹⁵ ... 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.

Lesson 3: God's _____ can come in unexpected ways!

Look at the scenario: Jonah was just tossed into a raging sea in the middle of a tremendous storm. Even though the sea grew calm the moment he hit the water, there still was NO CHANCE for survival! The natural consequences for Jonah's disobedience were about to be fully realized. But the LORD ...

Jonah 1:17 (ESV)

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.

Do you see the incredible display of God's mercy? The fish was provided as a _____ for Jonah! God did not allow the natural outcome of Jonah's choices to come to fruition, but instead rescued him!

There are some lessons only a "big fish" can teach ...

Proverbs 20:30 (ESV)

³⁰ Blows that wound cleanse away evil; strokes make clean the innermost parts.

Proverbs 20:30 (GNT)

³⁰ Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.

Notes: