

# *The Storm of Disobedience*

**Series:** Jonah: Mission. Mess. Mercy.

**Text:** Jonah 1:4–16

**Preacher:** Dave Geldart

**Date:** June 8, 2025

**Big Idea:** Disobedience to God's mission has ripple effects, but God can use even our failures to bring others to Himself—and Jesus, the Greater Jonah, still speaks peace into our storms.

## **1. Welcome & Announcements**

- a. Welcome
- b. Connect Cards
- c. Giving
- d. Wayne Elder Recommendation – final week for feedback

## **2. Series Recap**

- a. [1] Last week we started our summer sermon series through the book of Jonah
  - i. Called Mission, Mess, Mercy.
- b. About a prophet of God who lived about 800 BC.
- c. He was a rare popular prophet in northern Israel, an idol worshiping nation with an evil king.
  - i. Popular because he prophesied favorably toward the king, that he'd win battles and reclaim territories, making their already prosperous nation even richer and more prosperous
  - ii. Jonah was fiercely nationalistic and extremely bigoted against Israel's enemies, primarily the brutal Assyrians.
  - iii. So when God told Jonah to go and preach his Word of warning of judgement (and the inherent offer of mercy if they'd repent), the man whose name means DOVE, son of my faithfulness,
    1. So hateful and unfaithful was he that he refused to go to Nineveh
    2. And instead fled from God in the opposite direction, getting on a boat toward Spain.

## **3. Introduction: When Our Choices Create Chaos**

- a. Here in KS we're good at storms!
  - i. Nothing like a line of strong thunderheads rolling over the plains
  - ii. Over the flint hills
  - iii. In the evening light you can see the strong updrafts billowing up nimbus 40-60k feet into the atmosphere.
  - iv. And here in the plains, you can see them coming for miles away
  - v. In fact, if the air is clear, you can see those thunderheads from 250 to more than 300 miles away!
- b. And when they arrive,
  - i. They can be extremely destructive

- ii. **[1a] 3 summers ago, our family was out on the boat with Dilan and Crystal Oglesby**
  - 1. Can see Storm clouds rolling in
  - 2. **[1b] Clouds began to look like this**
  - 3. Apps began to squawk about tornado heading our way
  - 4. Rushing back
  - 5. Boat loaded down
  - 6. Rushing to tear down their camp
  - 7. And sped over to Dilan's house just as the storm hit
  - 8. Circulation went right over their house
  - 9. **[1c] We were in their bathroom**
  - 10. It was CRAZY outside
  - 11. And in all the craziness I broke my pinky toe!
- c. **Some beside their camp stayed, campers overturned!**
  - i. **Our choices have consequences!**
- d. Have you ever made a decision thinking, *"This is just between me and God"*—only to realize it pulled others into the consequences?
  - i. Maybe you avoided a hard conversation.
  - ii. Maybe a relationship you stayed in, or didn't step into.
  - iii. Or an act of generosity or service you refused
  - iv. Or ignored a call from God.
  - v. Maybe a mission you were too afraid or too distracted to pursue.
- e. And suddenly, someone **else is caught in the waves you created.**
  - i. It wasn't just a personal choice after all
- f. **That's where we find Jonah today.**
  - i. **[2] He's in a storm of disobedience, and it's not just going to affect him, but everyone around him.**
  - ii. "Disobedience to God's mission has ripple effects."
- g. **His disobedience triggers a storm that almost sinks a ship full of innocent sailors.**
  - i. **But here's the twist: while Jonah sinks spiritually, the sailors rise.**
- h. **And beneath it all, God's mission and mercy keep moving forward.**
  - i. **Transition:** Let's dive into the storm in Jonah 1, and see what God reveals—not just about Jonah, but about ourselves.

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#### **4. [3] Scripture Reading: Jonah 1:4–16 (Jozef Stricker)**

<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup>All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. <sup>6</sup>The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up

and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.”<sup>7</sup> Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

**[4]**<sup>8</sup> So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?” He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”<sup>10</sup> This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)<sup>11</sup> The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”<sup>12</sup> “Pick me up and throw me into

**[5]** the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”<sup>13</sup> Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before.<sup>14</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD, “Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, LORD, have done as you pleased.”<sup>15</sup> Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm.<sup>16</sup> At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

➔ Prayer (Jozef)

## 5. [6] The Ripple Effect of Running (v. 4–6)

“Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up.” (v. 4)

- a. Jonah’s private rebellion caused a very public crisis.
  - i. This isn’t just a personal matter—it’s a missional one.
- b. And it’s not just Jonah who suffers.
  - i. The sailors—just ordinary people doing their jobs, who had nothing to do with Jonah’s call—are the ones getting hit by the first wave!
- c. **Illustration:** Like tossing a stone in a pond—Jonah’s choice sends ripples far beyond himself.

### **d. [7] Application: When we run from God’s calling, the fallout doesn’t just stay with us.**

- i. We may think our disobedience only affects us—but the people on the “boat” with us suffer too:
  - 1. Our families, kids,
  - 2. our churches,
  - 3. our friends,
  - 4. coworkers
  - 5. our neighbors—all feel the waves.

- a. It's like all recovering addicts have to discover: what felt like personal and private sins still hurt others
  - ii. Ignoring God's mission—failing to live out who we're called to be—has *ripple effects*.
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## 6. [8] Jonah Asleep Amidst Crisis (v. 5–6)

"Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep." (v. 5)

- a. While the sailors panic, Jonah is—shockingly—**asleep** below deck.
- b. Everyone else is wide eyed and alert to the danger, and crying out
  - i. And Jonah, the one person who should be alert spiritually, is asleep at the wheel
- c. This is more than physical exhaustion. Jonah is spiritually checked out.
  - i. Numb inside to God, the world, and reality
  - ii. **The storm is raging, lives are on the line, and the prophet of God is the only one not praying.**
- d. **The pagan captain** becomes the unlikely preacher:
  - i. [9] "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god!" (v. 6)
- e. **Illustration:** It's like a firefighter sleeping through an alarm going on in the station.
  - i. Everyone else is desperate for action,
  - ii. but the one who *knows the truth and is equipped to use it for salvation* is missing.
- f. **[10] Application:** Too often, we are like Jonah:
  - i. Spiritually asleep amidst a world in crisis.
  - ii. Our neighbors are drowning in anxiety, brokenness, and questions.
    - 1. Spiritually lost without hope to save themselves
    - 2. And we are... spiritually asleep.
      - a. Turned inward
      - b. Just trying to get comfortable
- g. **[11] Question:** Are you awake to the reality of God's mission around you?

## 7. [12] Contrast: Jonah vs. the Sailors

- a. Let's take a moment to compare and contrast Jonah and the sailors.
- b. It's *shocking* who looks more like a disciple.
- c. You'd expect the prophet to be the hero—but this story flips the script.
- d. **[13] CHART:**

| <u>Area</u>      | <u>Jonah</u>  | <u>Sailors</u>             |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Obedience</b> | Runs from God | Ultimately obey God's word |

| <u>Area</u>     | <u>Jonah</u>                    | <u>Sailors</u>                          |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Care for Others | Indifferent, silent             | Try to save Jonah & one another         |
| Alertness       | Asleep                          | Awake and active                        |
| Righteousness   | Resigned, not repentant         | Try to avoid violence                   |
| Openness to God | Silent, resistant, unresponsive | Pray, fear God, sacrifice and make vows |

- d. The one who *should* be near to God is the one running away from Him.
- e. The ones who *should* be far from God are the ones moving *toward* Him.
- f. **Point:** Sometimes the people we think are “far from God” are actually more open to Him than those who claim to follow Him.
- g. **Application:** This should challenge us.
  - a. Sometimes it’s the people we least expect—the “outsiders,” the irreligious, the broken, the messy—who are most spiritually responsive.
    - i. And can put us, who know more and better, to shame
  - a. Let’s not assume we’re aligned with God and his will just because we know the right answers.
  - b. [14] It’s not about what you know—it’s about your response to God.**
  - c. And it should humble us. You can be “God’s person” in name... and still be running.

## 8. [15] Resignation vs. Repentance (v. 7–12)

Jonah finally speaks up. He admits:

“I’m a Hebrew... I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” (v. 9)

- a. Ah, so you are running from the God that you believe is in charge of both the land and sea, on a boat.
- b. His theology was right, but his heart was wrong.
- c. He confesses his identity and the truth of God,
  - a. But Notice: Jonah doesn’t repent.

**[16] “Pick me up and throw me into the sea.” (v. 12)**

- d. Notice He doesn’t say, “Turn the ship around—I’ll obey and go to Nineveh!”
  - a. He says, “*Throw me overboard.*”

- e. This isn't as noble as it first may appear.
  - a. **[17] That's not repentance (turning around and going the other way)—it's resignation.**
  - b. It's passive.
  - c. Fatalistic.
  - d. Jonah would still rather die than obey God.
- f. Meanwhile, the sailors' response was much more noble:
  - a. Try to row back to shore (v. 13)
  - b. Cry out to God (v. 14)
  - c. Finally obey when they see no other option, reluctantly but respectfully.
- g. **Illustration:** Jonah is the guy who knows all the lyrics to a worship song... but doesn't live a life of worship.

## 9. [18] Redemption in the Storm (v. 15–16)

"Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him." (vv. 15–16)

- a. **This is amazing:** The sailors start the story worshiping false gods.
  - i. They end it as worshipers of the true God. – YAHWEH – THE LORD
- b. **[19] The Point: God was able to use even Jonah's failure to bring others to Himself.**
  - i. Even when Jonah – Dove, son of my faithfulness - was faithless, **God was still faithful.**
  - ii. **AND THAT'S TRUE STILL TODAY**
  - iii. **Have you failed at following or obeying God?**
    - 1. **Saying explicitly or implicitly no to actively living out his mission to your neighbors?**
  - iv. God can use even your failures to bring others to Himself.
    - 1. That's how relentless God's missionary heart is.
    - 2. And, It's never too late to repent.
- c. **Illustration:** It's like a broken compass still pointing someone home—not because the compass works, but because the magnetism of God's mercy is just that strong, pulling people in.

## 10. [20] ANOTHER MAN ASLEEP IN A BOAT

- a. Let's fast forward about 800 years to another storm.
- b. Mark 4: "Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion." (Mark 4:38)
- c. Like Jonah, Jesus is asleep in a boat too.
  - a. The storm threatens to destroy them all.

- b. The disciples manning the boat wake him with the same kind of panic.
- c. They cry out:
  - i. “Don’t you care if we drown?” (Mark 4:38) --- DO SOMETHING!
- d. Sound familiar?
- e. But here's the key difference:
  - a. JESUS ISN'T JONAH
- f. Jonah was running from God’s mission.
  - a. Jesus *was* the mission
- g. Jonah was spiritually asleep.
  - a. Jesus was spiritually aware, yet at peace.
- h. Jonah was passive in the face of the storm.
  - a. Jesus actively **rebuked** the storm and said, “*Peace, be still.*”
- i. Jonah’s presence brought chaos
  - a. Jesus’ presence brought peace.
- j. Jonah was thrown overboard, into death, to calm the sea—temporarily.
  - a. Jesus would be thrown down into *death itself* to calm the storm of sin and death—**permanently**.
- k. [21] Jesus is the greater Jonah.
  - a. He doesn’t run from the mission—He runs *into* it.
  - b. He doesn’t just bring peace—He **is** our peace.
- l. He’s the greater Jonah for us to follow.
  - a. Dove, son of my faithfulness

## 11. [22] Closing Challenge: What Kind of Storm Are You In?

- a. [23] Are you running like Jonah?
  - i. Spiritually asleep?
  - ii. Avoiding the hard call?
  - iii. Selfishly seeking your own comfort and control above the call of God?
  - iv. Are others getting hurting others because of your disobedience?
    - 1. through your silence, avoidance, apathy, sin?
- b. [24] Or are you like the sailors, in a storm someone else caused?
  - i. Caught in waves from someone else’s disobedience?
  - ii. Feeling like you're in survival mode?
    - 1. Lost and frantic at a deep, heart level
  - iii. Are you wondering if God still sees you as your flounder?
- c. **Here’s the good news:**
  - i. God works even in the storms
    - 1. [25] In fact, Jesus meets us in both kinds of storms.
      - a. He still speaks, “*Peace, be still.*”
      - b. He still calls us back to the mission.
    - 2. [26] And He still uses our mess in his mission of mercy.

- a. Uses our brokenness for redemption.
- b. God redeems both unsuspecting sailors
- c. And disobedient missionaries like us

## **12.[27] Application Questions:**

### **a. [28] Will you let God use the storm to wake you up?**

- i. No matter the root cause
- ii. God wants to rouse you spiritually and alert you to what's true

### **b. [29] Will you let Jesus, the Greater Jonah, speak peace into your life?**

### **c. [30] Will you listen to and obey His word**

- i. When he calls you to go and make disciples
  - 1. Even your neighbors and coworkers that you despise
  - 2. The people you Fear
  - 3. The kind of person you Hate
  - 4. Feel uncomfortable around

### **d. [31] Will you repent, not just resign or regret**

- i. REPENT: Turn around, stop resisting and running from God and his call
- ii. And begin actively trusting him by obeying his commands

### **e. [32] What do you need to repent of this morning?**

- i. Living your life on your own, pursuing your own career, comfort, concept of church
- ii. Visit and get connected with a small group
  - 1. Life group
  - 2. Seamless study
- iii. Get discipled
- iv. Reach out and disciple someone else that you can tell is spiritually hungry
- v. Offer your gifts to serve the Body
- vi. Get to know your actual neighbors
  - 1. Build friendships
  - 2. Show up to their parties
  - 3. Invite them over
- vii. Ask deeper questions that may lead to spiritual things
- viii. Be willing to naturally speak of Jesus, don't filter
- ix. Take that meal over to the neighbor who just had surgery
  - 1. Or the coworker
- x. Reach the community you're in one relationship at a time
- xi. Commit yourself to this church family
  - 1. Become a member
  - 2. Get connected to a group
  - 3. Take a step to know and be known
  - 4. To serve and be served
  - 5. To Give and receive

- f. Who knows what God might do if we repented of our passive, western church living and followed Jesus

### 13. [33] Final Word: God's Mission Will Not Be Stopped

- a. The amazing truth of Jonah chapter 1, is Jonah's running didn't derail God's plan.
  - i. It just rerouted it.
- b. You can delay God's mission. You can resist it.
  - i. But **you can't stop it.**
- c. God's heart was still for Nineveh. God's heart was still for the sailors. And even for Jonah.
- d. And God's heart is still for you.
- e. So why not say "yes" today?
  - i. Why not wake up—before the waves get wilder?
  - ii. Let Jesus calm your storm.
  - iii. Let Him send you—not to be perfect, but to be obedient.
  - iv. **Step in. And trust that even in your mess, God still wants to show mercy.**

### 14. [34] Q&A & Testimonies

- a. Share a moment when God woke you up spiritually—maybe through a 'storm'—and used it to redirect you.
- b. How have you seen God use your failure or brokenness to bring someone else closer to Him?
- c. Like the sailors in the story, have you ever seen someone far from God respond in surprising faith? What did you learn from that?
- d. Was there a moment in your life where you chose to obey God even though it was hard or uncomfortable—and saw Him work through it?
- e. What is one area in your life where you feel God is calling you to obey, but you've been avoiding it?
- f. What step of repentance and faith is God calling you to take in response to this sermon today?

### 15. [35] Closing Prayer

"Lord, we confess we are often more like Jonah than Jesus. We're spiritually asleep when the world is crying out. We run when You call us to go. But thank You for Your relentless grace. Thank You that even in our storms, You are working. Wake us up. Speak peace. In us. And through us. And send us again. In Jesus' name, Amen."

# JONAH

MISSION. MESS. MERCY.



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MISS



J

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# JONAH

MISSION. MESS. MERCY.



The background is a warm, golden-orange illustration of a city with many towers and walls, situated in a valley with a winding river. In the foreground, a wooden post with a vine wrapped around it is visible on the right side. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow.

# JONAH

MISSION. MESS. MERCY.

1:4-16

THE STORM OF DISOBEDIENCE

# JONAH 1:4-16

<sup>4</sup> Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup> **All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god.** And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

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# JONAH 1:4-16

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# JONAH 1:4-16

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# THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF RUNNING

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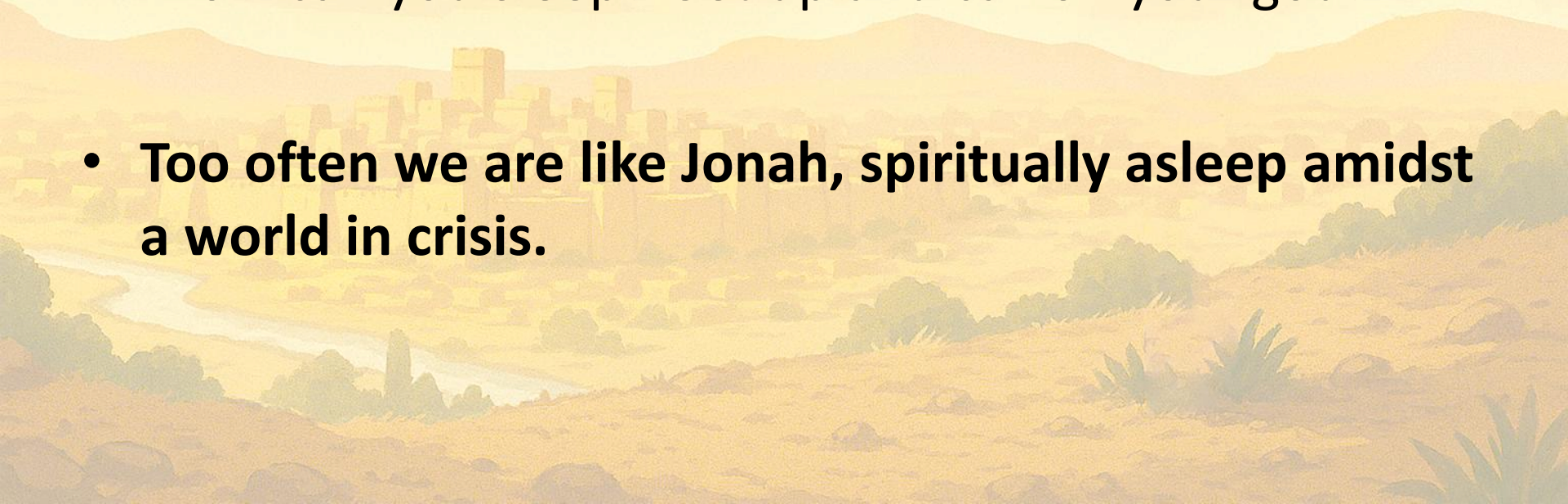


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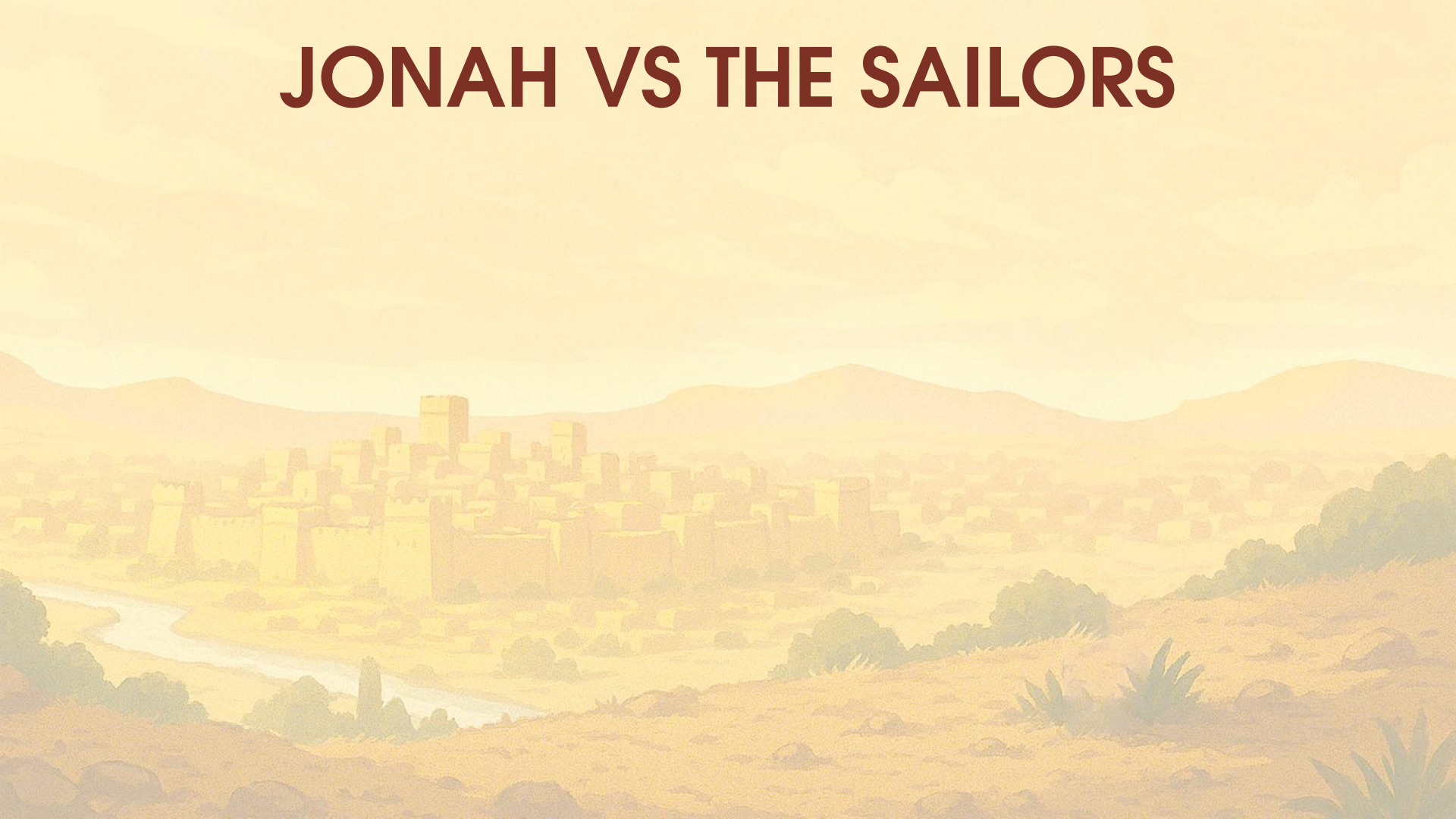
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- Too often we are like Jonah, spiritually asleep amidst a world in crisis.
- Are you awake to the reality of God’s mission around you?

# JONAH VS THE SAILORS



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| AREA                   | JONAH                              | SAILORS                                 |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Obedience</b>       | Runs from God                      | Ultimately obey God's word              |
| <b>Care for Others</b> | Indifferent, Silent                | Try to save Jonah and one another       |
| <b>Alertness</b>       | Asleep                             | Awake and active                        |
| <b>Righteousness</b>   | Resigned, not repentant            | Try to avoid violence                   |
| <b>Openness to God</b> | Silent, Resistant,<br>Unresponsive | Pray, Fear God, Sacrifice and make vows |

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- **It's not about what you know—it's about your response to God.**

# RESIGNATION VS REPENTANCE

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<sup>12</sup> “Pick me up and throw me into the sea.”



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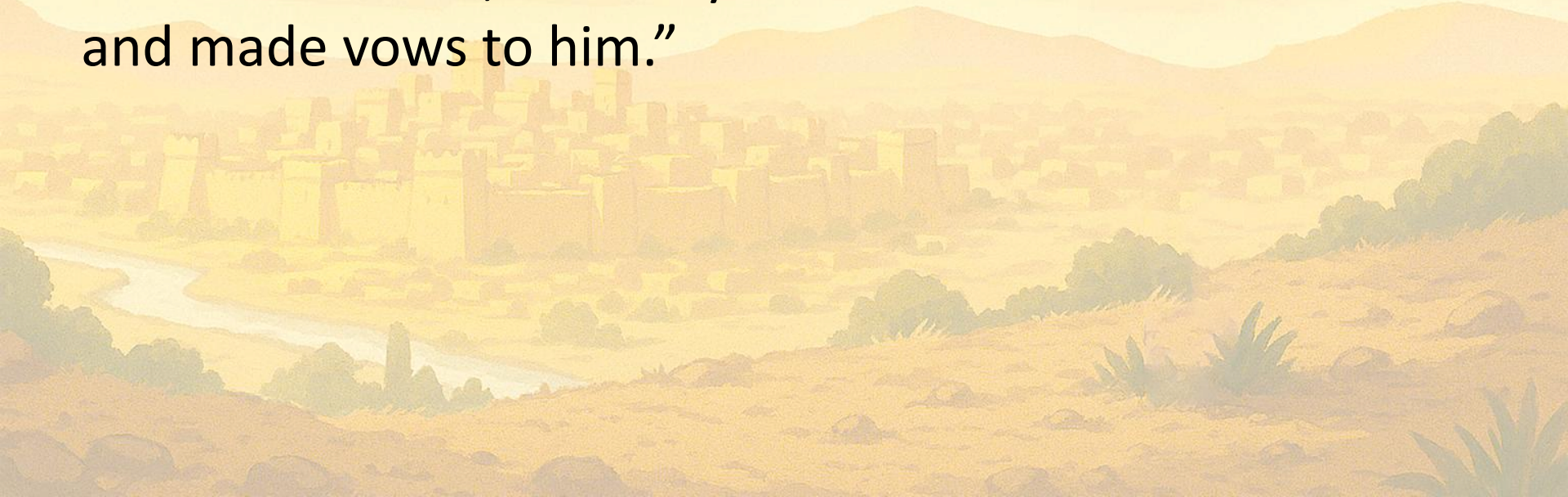
<sup>12</sup> “Pick me up and throw me into the sea.”

- **That’s not repentance—it’s resignation.**



# REDEMPTION IN THE STORM

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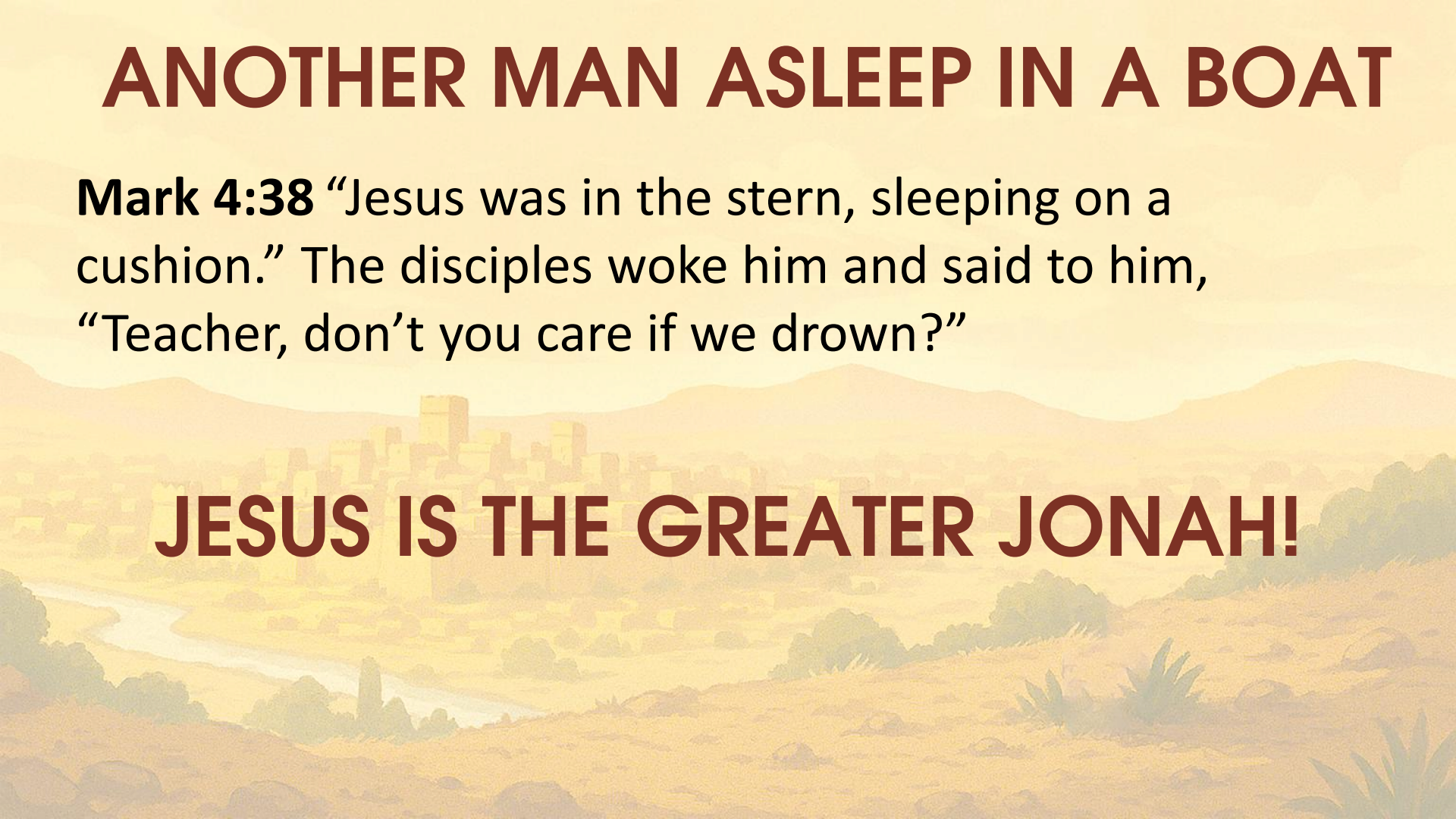
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## JESUS IS THE GREATER JONAH!



# **CLOSING CHALLENGE: WHAT KIND OF STORM ARE YOU IN?**



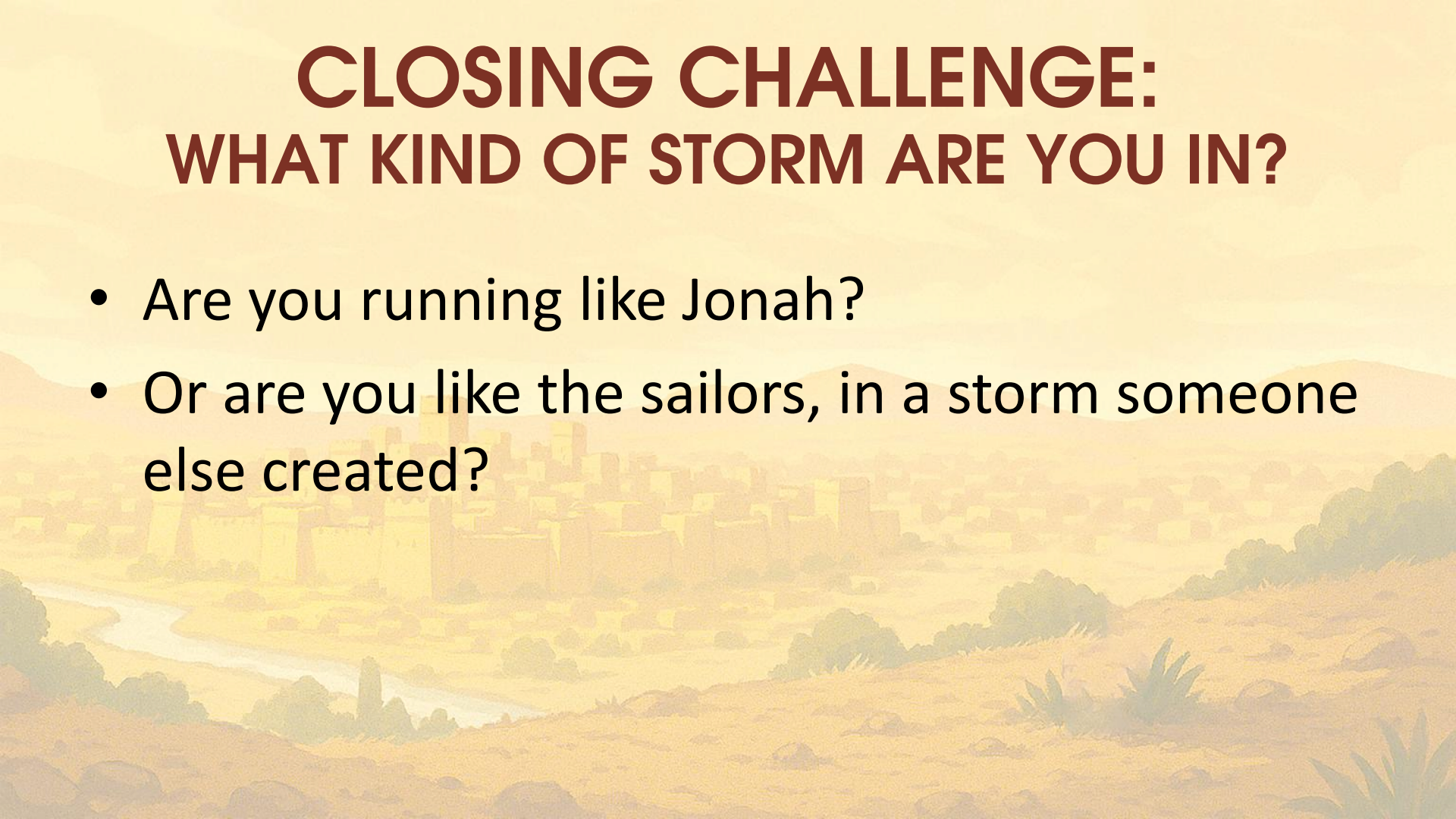
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- Are you running like Jonah?



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# CLOSING CHALLENGE:

## WHAT KIND OF STORM ARE YOU IN?

- Are you running like Jonah?
- Or are you like the sailors, in a storm someone else created?
- **Jesus meets us in both kind of storms.**

# CLOSING CHALLENGE:

## WHAT KIND OF STORM ARE YOU IN?

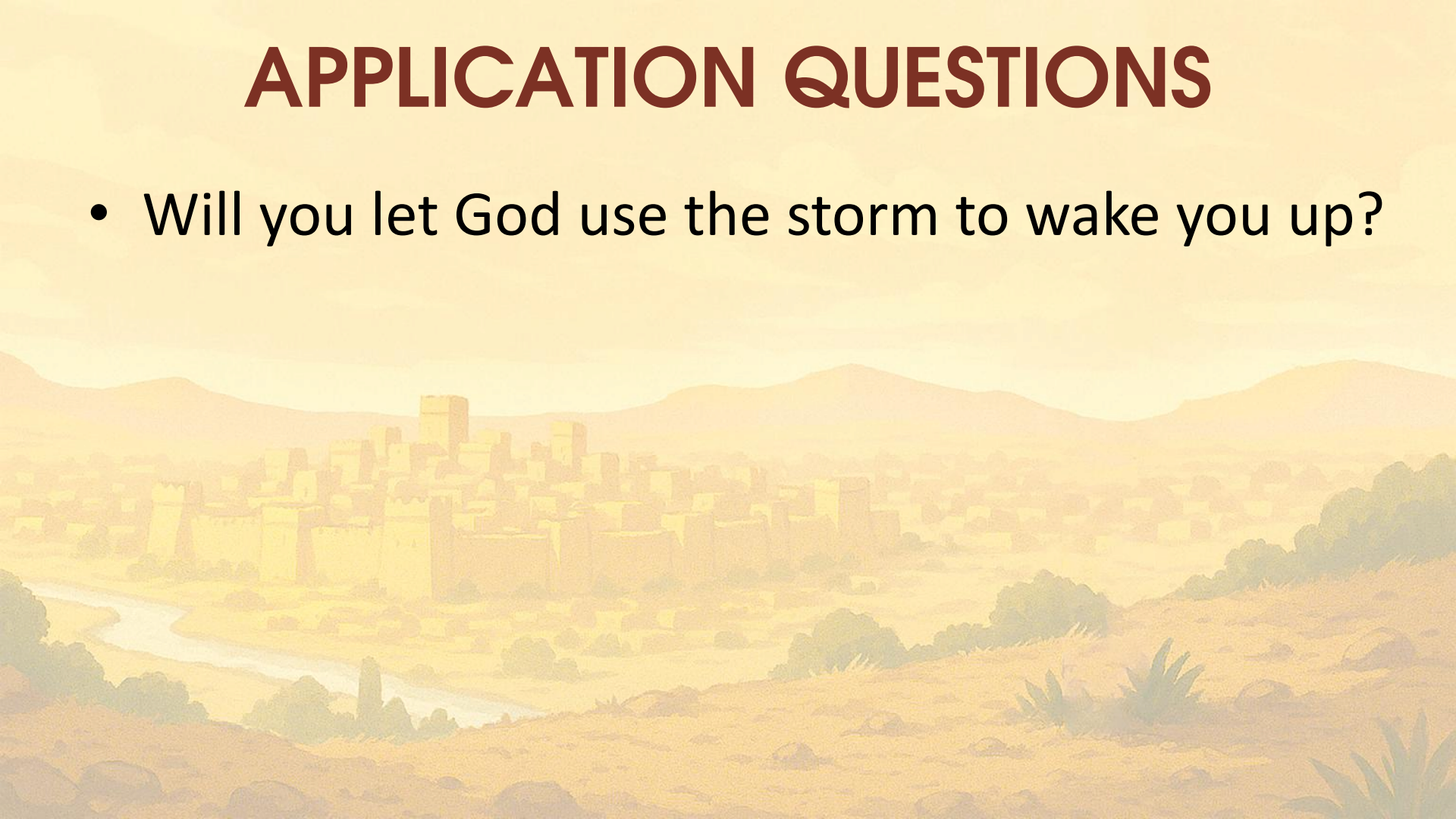
- Are you running like Jonah?
- Or are you like the sailors, in a storm someone else created?
- **Jesus meets us in both kind of storms.**
- **He still uses our mess in his mission of mercy.**

# APPLICATION QUESTIONS



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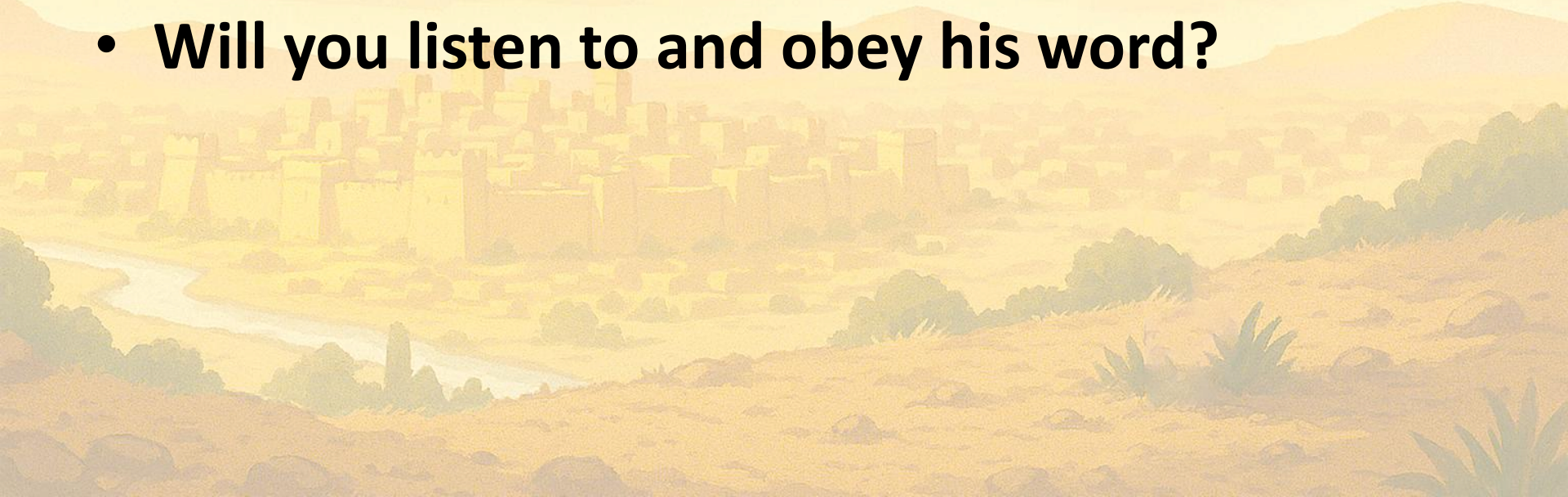
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**GOD'S MISSION WILL NOT BE STOPPED!**

# Q&A / TESTIMONIES

- **Share a moment when God woke you up spiritually**—maybe through a ‘storm’—and used it to redirect you.
- **How have you seen God use your failure** or brokenness to bring someone else closer to Him?
- Like the sailors in the story, **have you ever seen someone far from God respond in surprising faith?** What did you learn from that?
- Was there a moment in your life where you **chose to obey God even though it was hard or uncomfortable**—and saw Him work through it?
- What is one area in your life where you feel **God is calling you to obey, but you’ve been avoiding it?**
- What **step of repentance and faith is God calling you to take** in response to this sermon today?

# JONAH

MISSION. MESS. MERCY.

