

God's Compassion for lost  
people drives the storm.

Jonah 1:4-17

**Big Idea:** Sometimes we disobey God,  
and he sends a storm; so, we trust God  
and let the storm get us back on track.

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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."

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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?" <sup>9</sup> 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." <sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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." <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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."

<sup>15</sup> So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. <sup>16</sup> Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

<sup>17</sup> 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:** Sometimes we disobey God, and he sends a storm; so, we trust God and let the storm get us back on track.

# Compassion drives the storm.

1. Our actions cause storms (vv. 4-6).
2. Our storms can hurt people (vv. 7-10).
3. Compassion calms the storm (vv. 11-16).
4. God works even when we fail (v. 17).

# 1. Our actions cause storms (vv. 4-6).

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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.

# God sent the storm to save people.

i. The wind obeys.

ii. The boat shows concern.

iii. The pagans fear God and pray.

# Jonah ran away from God's will.

- i. Jonah disobeys.
- ii. Jonah shows no concern.
- iii. Jonah refuses to pray.

# Let the storm do its work.

- i. Recognize God's purpose for storms.
- ii. Repent and avoid the storm.

## 2. Storms hurt people (vv. 7-10).

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# Our storms hurt us.

- i. Our sin will be revealed (vv. 8-10).
- ii. Sin has consequences.
- iii. We cannot hide from God.

# Storms hurt people around us.

- i. The sailors fear for their lives (vv. 6, 10)
- ii. They lost cargo because of Jonah (v. 5).
- iii. Sin's consequences impact innocent bystanders.

# We can end the storm.

- i. Take responsibility.
- ii. Obey God.
- iii. Work through the pain.

3. Compassion calms the storm (vv. 11-16).

"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."<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land ...

# Compassion calms the storm.

- i. Jonah lacks compassion (v. 12; cf. 4:2).
- ii. The sailors show godly compassion (v. 13).
- iii. The storm results from God's compassion.

# God shows compassion to:

- i. Terrible sinners (Nineveh).
- ii. Lost sailors (v. 14).
- iii. Disobedient prophets (v. 17).
- iv. You haven't run past God's compassion.  
Repent and experience forgiveness today.

# Compassion calms the storm.

i. Live compassionately.

ii. Trust God and move forward.

4. God works even when we fail (v. 17).

<sup>17</sup> 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.

# We cannot mess up God's plans.

- i. God sent Jonah to Nineveh.
- ii. God is working on us (Phil 1:6).
- iii. All things work for God's will (Eph 1:11).
- iv. Live with no regrets (Rom 8:28).