

Jonah: The Reluctant Prophet-9

Introduction: Jonah is cast into the sea, despite the efforts of the Mariners. The results are several: the sea ceased from her raging, the men feared the Lord, and a prepared fish swallows Jonah.

Text: **Jonah 1:13-17**

D. The Casting Forth v13-17

1. Nevertheless v13

Herein is a great truth for you and I, **we are responsible for what we know and have been taught.**

2. _____ v14

*“**Wherefore** they cried unto the Lord, and said, We beseech thee, O Lord, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man’s life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O Lord, hast done as it pleased thee.”*

What is different about this prayer by the Mariners?

The demonstration of that faith is seen in not only their prayer **but also the very act of tossing Jonah overboard.**

“The person who does not pray much will be a person who has trouble submitting to the will of God.” -John Butler

Three items I would have us note concerning this prayer:

1. They prayed **desperately** to God.
2. They prayed **reverentially** to God.
3. They prayed **in submission** to God.

Notice they state, “*O Lord, we beseech thee...*”

Do we realize that we are dependent upon God alone?

James 5:16 states that we ought to have fervency in our prayers.

John Phillips pointed this out concerning this prayer, “Earlier the captain had urged Jonah to call upon *Elohim*, the God of all creation translated “God” as in 1:6). Now the sailors prayed to *Jehovah*, the living covenantal God of the Jewish people (translated “LORD” as in **1:10,14**).

These men have been awakened to the exceeding sinfulness of sin in the face of a holy and righteous God.

“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?”

I Peter 4:17,18

The Bible says in **Psalm 115:3**, “*3 But our God is in the heavens: He hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.*”

Psalm 135:6 states very similarly, “*Whatsoever the LORD pleased, That did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.*”

3. So v15

“Note also that Jonah did not jump overboard, but the sailors had to throw him overboard. Throwing Jonah overboard was the only way the sailors could genuinely show their faith in Jonah's message. Just because Jonah was willing to be thrown overboard did not save the sailors.” -John Butler

The Scriptures give us the indication that immediately the waters cease from their raging.

Example: Causing waves in a pool.

“Ordinarily, the waves still swell, when the wind has ceased. The sea, when it had received Jonah, was hushed at once, to show that God alone raised and quelled it. It “stood” still, like a servant, when it had accomplished its mission.”

4. _____ v16

Only God could do this!!... the mysterious work in the lives of others by the testimony of a disobedient prophet, through all of this, the Bible says, “*Then the men feared the LORD...*”

This ought to give hope to every one of us here today who know of others, that are “hard” cases, rejecting the Lord at this very hour.

God through his penman, is declaring that He is interested in men being saved.

You see, “*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*” **II Peter 3:9**

5. Now v17

Illustration: Dr. Whitcomb and Dr. Fullerton’s encounter with a Princeton College Student.

v17 “***Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.***”

I want us to understand as we close out this chapter that it is God that prepared this fish... This was no accident, this is not something you and I have to explain away...

There are four different items are presented to us in the book of Jonah that God prepared.

God prepared this fish. 1:17

God prepared the gourd 4:6

God prepared the worm 4:7

God prepared the east wind 4:8