

## **Jonah: Throw -- Jonah 1:4-17 - Devotions**

### **Monday**

*Opening thought - what thoughts or ideas or even biblical stories come to mind when you think about the wrath of God?*

**Read** - Jonah 1:4-6, Psalm 78:41-50

- How is the anger and wrath of God on display in these two passages of Scripture?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What about these passages is "hard to swallow" in terms of your own understanding of God?

Pastor Jerry asked the question, 'why did God send a storm with such force into the life of Jonah and these sailors?' What does all this show about God? Is God showing us something here that we need to pay attention to? The storm is implying that God is angry at Jonah and his rebellion. When we willfully disobey, this angers God!

- How do you this truth in Romans 1:18-23?

Pastor Jerry also stated that even some within the church (pastors, teachers) do not rightly understand the Biblical God who displays wrath. How does this quote from Joyce Myers demonstrate an incorrect view of the God of the Bible?

*"God is not mad at you!... I wasted many years living with a vague fear that God was angry with me. Thankfully, over the years I have come to know the amazing, passionate love of God, and I now know that God is not angry with me; He isn't even annoyed with me! And it isn't because of anything I've done or haven't done; it is simply because He's in love with me." (Joyce Meyer)*

**Reflect** - the wrath of God is most certainly deeply rooted in the Scriptures. God is not to be taken lightly nor our sin against Him. Yet the hope of mercy and forgiveness cannot be rightly seen unless the backdrop of the Righteous Wrath of God is understood. Take time this morning to give worship and adoration to the Only True God - Righteous, Holy, Sovereign, Judging sin and wickedness, yet offering mercy through His Son (Ps. 103:8-9)

## **Tuesday**

*Opening Thought - how would Christianity be a hopeless faith if all we knew of God was His wrath? How would Christianity be a cheap faith if all we knew of God was His love?*

*Read - James 4:4-10 & Deuteronomy 6:14-15*

- What do you learn about the character of God from these passages?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What specific reminders and remedies does James give to his listening audience about how to live rightly before God?

Pastor Jerry explained that God does get angry at us (believers)! But...there is more. It is an anger of grace and love that refuses to allow our sin to destroy us. A gracious anger that refuses to allow our sin to cheapen his grace or pervert his mercy to those who are in need. God is ALWAYS HOLY AND LOVING AND RIGHTEOUS AND GOOD AND JUST. HE IS THESE THINGS PERFECTLY AND IN UNITY.

- Why is this hard to understand or grasp for believers?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Why would God being "jealous" or displaying jealousy over the Spirit He place within us be confusing? Why is jealousy a right description for God (see Ephesians 5:31)

*Reflect - Pastor Jerry explained that God is jealous for His glory and our good (in that order). This jealousy will produce the loving anger of God when we sin and rebel against him. Take time to come before God with humility, repentance and a submissive heart - bring to Him your sins, your idols, your unrighteous anger and anything else that runs counter to Him and His call upon your life. When we harden our hearts toward God, storms can become necessary to produce repentance. God does this because he loves us. Because this is what is best for His glory and our good.*

### **Wednesday**

*Opening thought - when has God's discipline (bringing storms) in your life been a good thing for you? How did you grow and mature from it?*

**Read** - Isaiah 6:1-8 and 1 Peter 1:14-21

- *How is the Isaiah passage a corrective lens to view the Jonah 1 story?*
  
- *How does Peter give clarity to both grace and holiness in the life of the believer?*

*Pastor Jerry gave us a caution when we stated that not all storms are a sign of God's gracious anger. But storms should cause us to stop...do a heart check...and see if we are running away or willfully disobeying God?*

- *What specific things does Isaiah recognize about himself and his surroundings that must be stopped? What method does God use to solve this problem?*
  
- *How do verses 17-18 of 1 Peter 1 explain to all believers why sin must be taken seriously?*

**Reflect** - read Psalm 103:1-18. talk with a close friend or spouse about how this study is affecting your thinking about sin and the wrath of God. Pray together over specific sins in your life and thank God for the grace in Christ that covers all our sin and takes away God's wrath.

### **Jonah: Throw -- Jonah 1:4-17 (ESV)**

Times in our lives when we plan things out but then it goes all wrong or not as you planned it.  
"The best laid plans of mice and men..."

Go...No...Throw (outline of Jonah 1)  
God calls Jonah to Go  
Jonah, by his actions says, No  
And the sailors throw Jonah overboard

#### **I. God throws the sea into turmoil**

Tempest initiated and done by God; His Sovereign power and might being displayed here in this violent storm on the ocean.

-- see this in Mark's gospel when Jesus calms the storm and they respond that "who is able to do this except God?"

-- "He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses" Ps. 33:7

Question - why did God send a storm with such force into the life of Jonah and these sailors? (These sailors are well trained on the high seas and yet they are terrified). What does all this show about God?

- Is God showing us something here that we need to pay attention to?
- God could have done anything to get Jonah's attention or turn his heart
- But why a storm of is magnitude? Why not a doldrum (lack of wind)?
- Or God could have sent sickness or plague, but does not.
- Or God could have made it so that there was no boat going to Tarshish.

This storm threatens the lives of all on board. What is this saying?

Conclusion: ***The storm is implying that God is angry at Jonah and his rebellion.***

- ***when we willfully disobey, this angers God!***
- ***Christians do not do "anger" well (understand it or practice it in a godly way)***

"Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil" Ephesians 4:26-27

How well do we really understand this passage?

- ***We do not do well handling / understanding anger from a biblical perspective either***

When we miss this there can be an effect in us like a poison. And in so doing we can have a warped view of God. Those who hold the view "no, God is not angry with you" is a growing view even among Christians. (See quote below)

*God is not mad at you!... I wasted many years living with a vague fear that God was angry with me. Thankfully, over the years I have come to know the amazing, passionate love of God, and I now know that God is not angry with me; He isn't even annoyed with me! And it isn't because of anything I've done or haven't done; it is simply because He's in love with me. (Joyce Meyer)*

In this view, God responds to our anger like we respond to our infants 🧒 wrong behavior. It's a kind of "cute anger." Yet this is NOT how Scripture presents God and His anger.

Psalms 78:49 - "a company of destroying angels"

Romans 1:18 - "wrath of God is revealed"

We need a God of wrath because so much injustice and wickedness and lawlessness in our society. We need Him to be angry at the despicable acts of wickedness in our world.

But what about us? What about his people? Does he get angry at us?

Psalms 88:7 - "your anger weighs me down"

Jeremiah 24:16-20 - false prophets who tell lies to God's people - God's wrath / storm is on them; God's anger will not turn back! "Storm of the Lord" is repeated multiple times.

- Does He get angry at us? YES! **But...there is more. It is an anger of grace and love that refuses to allow our sin to destroy ourselves.**
- **A gracious anger that refuses to allow our sin to cheapen his grace or pervert his mercy to those who are in need.**
- **God is ALWAYS HOLY AND LOVING AND RIGHTEOUS AND GOOD AND JUST. HE IS THESE THINGS PERFECTLY AND IN UNION!!!!**

We must see these attributes together, unified.

God is jealous for His glory and our good.

- This will produce the loving anger of God when we sin and rebel against him and his will for our lives
- This is a benevolent love toward us in bringing a "storm" into our lives
- We see this in chapter 4 where Jonah reflects on this whole event
- When we harden our hearts toward God, storms can become necessary to produce repentance. He does this because he loves us. Because this is what is best for His glory and our good.
  - Just like, as parents, we must punish our children for their good and that God's glory would be worked out in their life

**Careful** - not all storms are a sign of God's gracious anger. Please hear this!!!

But storms should cause us to stop...do a heart check...and see if I'm running or willfully obeying you?

Most often, our anger is not righteous and holy.

Yet God's anger is.

### ***Takeaway Truth***

***Unlike our anger, God's anger is a perfect expression of holiness and grace.***

- John 3:36
- Romans 2:5

There is a fierce storm coming for all those outside of Christ. It's a storm that will not end. There is no second chance here. The Bible says it's appointed to a man once to die then to face judgment. There is a way of salvation open to you now. But not after death.

- Romans 5:9
- 1 John 4:10

- Romans 10:9

Cheap grace movement makes sin a trifling matter. Grace is not cheap - it cost the Father dearly. It cost us the price of His son.

- 1 Peter 1:14-16
- God is not laughing about sin, it's a huge matter for Him. It's not a small thing
- He is jealous for our obedience
- He has proved his love for us in Christ and the cross; we have seen his grace and wrath
- DO NOT BE DECEIVED ON THIS MATTER!

#### Application

What is God calling you to this morning?

- Repentance of that specific sin that is close to you and you are ignoring it
- Be honest with God
- Confess and turn to Him