

# Jonah Discussion 5

## Jesus And Jonah?

### WHERE ARE YOU IN THE BOOK OF JONAH?

On Sunday our children told the story of Jonah eight key actions:

- RUNNING (Jonah runs away from God)
- ROTTING (Jonah stuck in the dark belly of the whale)
- REVERING (Jonah praying to God)
- RISING (Jonah saved from the whale)
- REFRAINING (The city stops everything for a while!)
- RESTARTING (God gives the city a new chance to start life again)
- RAGING (Jonah is very angry that God saved his enemies)
- RECEIVING (God's love is for all who will receive)

Which of these actions do you identify with today?

### SEVEN PLACES WE SEE JESUS IN THE BOOK OF JONAH!

#### 1. JESUS VISITED JONAH!

*Jonah 1:1. The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai.*

The 'Word of the Lord' is not just a thing, not just a spoken sound, and not just some book or writing. The 'Word of the Lord' is the second member of the Trinity, God the Son, God the Word. Whenever God is revealed physically that is Jesus Christ. The Old Testament prophets were visited by Christ. First they met God the Son, God the Word and then their words revealed him. What do you make of this?

#### 2. JONAH'S LIFE BECAME A LIVING PICTURE OF JESUS!

Jonah had met CHRIST, the living WORD OF GOD and now Jonah was a pattern of CHRIST'S life! Things happening to Jonah revealed the life of Jesus. Notice what happened in the boat with Jonah.

##### JONAH

Boards a boat. (1:3)

A storm rises. (1:4)

Boat almost broken. (1:4)

Sleeps below (1:5).

Crew wake Jonah (1:6).

The storm is stilled. (1:15)

End with fear & worship. (1:16)

##### JESUS

Boards a boat. (Mark 4:36)

A storm rises. (Mark 4:37)

Boat almost swamped. (Mark 4:37)

Sleeps at back (Mark 4:38).

The crew wake Jesus. (Mark 4:38)

The storm is stilled. (Mark 4:39)

Ends with fear & worship. (Mark 4:41)

Jonah is reflecting Jesus' life in a miraculous way. But Jonah is also quite different!

What are the key differences between the attitude and power of Jesus and Jonah in these two stories?

### **3. JONAH WAS SACRIFICED SO OTHERS COULD LIVE!**

*Jonah 1:14-15. Then they cried to the LORD, "O LORD, please do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, O LORD..."*

Jonah didn't throw himself off the boat - the pagan sailors did. In the same way Jesus Christ did not take his own life - the Roman soldiers did. Notice how they knew he was an innocent man that was being killed - just like Christ. Jonah was a willing sacrifice in their place. Just like Christ.

So what does the 'sacrifice' of Christ mean to you?

### **4. THREE DAYS IN THE DARK!**

*Matt 12:39-41. Jesus answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth... and now one greater than Jonah is here."*

Jonah had seen Christ, now his life was wrapped up with Christ.

How is your life wrapped up with Christ?

### **5. JONAH'S PRAYS THE PRAYER OF JESUS!**

*Jonah 2:2b. From the belly of hell I cried. / From the depths of the grave I cried.*

Jonah's prayer in the belly of the fish is a prayer of thanks and joy. It is a Messianic Psalm. Most of the words Jonah used were from the book of Psalms - from psalms about the coming king - the Christ. Read this prayer again and imagine Christ saying the words - they are His words!

When have you prayed a prayer like this one?

### **6. JONAH WENT TO THE NATIONS!**

The people of ancient Israel were God's chosen people and they perhaps did not want God to care for the other nations (at least Jonah didn't!). The call of Jonah smashed that. Jonah took God's love to the enemy. Jonah broke the barrier those who were insiders and the outsiders. Jonah points to the inclusion of Christ.

*Galatians 3:28.*

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Who among 'the nations' or 'the enemies' is God calling us to?

### **7. JONAH MEANS PEACE!**

*John 14:27. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you."*

Jonah's name means 'dove'. His story points us to peace.

So what have you learned from the story of Jonah?