

The word of the Lord came to Jonah – Go to Nineveh and preach.
The capitol of Assyrians emerging great world power that built pyramids in every city they conquered – of human skulls – But God has every right to tell his preacher where to go and what to say.

Instead of arising, going and crying out
He arose, fled and shipped out

At Joppa a boat about to sail to Tarshish, the end of the worlds – and a captain who would relive him of his money.
There are those who will help in the way of sin.
Deliberate, planned act of disobedience
Did he think that he could get away from god?
We certainly do at times
Not only had Jonah decided to rebel and not go – he chose to go in the opposite direction – with a crew who certainly weren't expecting him to give a word from the Lord

Disobedience leads to distress

Left family and friends – the peace of god had left him.
We see a man going to great lengths to run from God
God was going to greater lengths to retrieve him.
Like a game of chess, every move Jonah makes, is matched by and bettered by God.
He is going to win

So Miracle 1

God sends a great wind and tempest
Jonah was asleep while the innocent sailors suffered and battered
You can sleep if you are right with God and trusting him
You can sleep if you believe God is too far away to trouble you
You can't sleep if you know God is there and you are not right with him – that is wrong
Captain came and said – wake up and pray!
It's a desperate situation
The only person who couldn't pray was the man of God!

Disgrace

Be sure your sins will find you out – and as God controlled the lots they fell to Jonah.
He does not admit it is his fault (Really)
It is my God who sent the Tempest
He had the right words, creed – but he did not, could not believe it or he'd never have run away. He was not listening to what he said. It was cold and empty of meaning.
I believe in almighty God but

Can you run from the maker of the sea and dry land, the God you claim to worship? No Lord!

The unbelieving sailors were humane and tried as hard as they could to save Jonah – at all costs – cargo, possessions. They didn't want to throw him overboard

Neither did God

God wanted repentance and a promise to go to Nineveh

Jonah chose death rather than obey and go to Nineveh

Death was a way out for him

Checkmate

I believe God!

Miracle 3

A great calm – having been terrified of the sea, the sailors are now terrified of God.

We'll leave Jonah in the sea for the next week, but God had a counter move to bring his lost sheep back – whether the ends of the earth or the depth of the ocean.

Finally

Consider the Sailors whose lives were changed because of Jonah – typical of all men

1 Religious It takes great faith to be an atheist, very few around. Must have their own idea of God

In a jam – pray – e.g. a crisis, war

Prayer of fear not faith – not to the real God, but the

God of our imagination

Superstitious and prayed to every god they could

think of. One might work!

2 Respectable Storm was because of what another had done. Somebody did it. They recognised evil was in the ship, someone deserved divine wrath, but there is no sign that any of them examined their own lives. But they did recognise the supernatural origin of the storm.

3 Reasoning Prepared to discuss issues with man of God

i) Who are you – curiosity?

ii) What have you been doing – concern

iii) What must we do about it – conviction,

does not necessarily lead to action

4 Resistant Determined to try and avoid doing what they have been told – cargo, row all their own effort.

Jonah was too heavy. Guilt is a heavy cargo – need

to go God's way.

Only way to get rid of guilt, is through death and

sacrifice for sin. Shed blood.

- an animal at altar

- Messiah

- Jonah for himself

5 Repentant Sailors failing, ship sinking, eventually obey the man of God

They gave God a try and learnt that God was real –
terrified of storm, and now of the God of the calm
6 Reformed Worshipped one true God and made promises for
the future

How to get calm in a storm and life and get rid of guilt – Accept the sacrifice
of Christ for sin and offer oneself as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to
God (obedient)

Jonah was a man going to great length to run away from God – only to find
God going to even greater lengths to retrieve him

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