

Lessons from the Sea
Jonah 1:1-3
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from Jonah's experience at sea.

Intro: 1. We are all familiar with Jonah.
2. When you look at Jonah's actions there is not much to speak of in a positive way, but we can learn from his example.

I. Command & Response

A. The Order (1:1-2)

1. Very little is known about Jonah.
 - a. He was the son of Amittai, 2 *Kings* 14:25 reveals that he was from Gath Hopher and was a servant of the LORD.
2. The text indicates Nineveh was a great city, but very wicked. The LORD had taken notice of the wickedness.
3. To cry against Nineveh means to preach against it.

B. Jonah's objection (1:3)

1. He was trying to flee "from the presence of the LORD." (Used twice in this verse.)
 - i. Whether this was influenced by the idea of a "local" god, we do not know.
 - ii. There were those in that time that believed that various gods had territories over which they ruled.
 - iii. How much, if any, this view may have influenced Jonah, is not known.
2. He found a ship at Joppa and boarded it to get away from God.

II. Consequences

A. The guilty (1:4-17)

1. The storm (v.4)
2. The fear (v.5-7)
 - a. The sailors attempt to protect the boat (v.5-6)
 - b. The sailors attempt to point the blame for the storm (v.7)
3. The fault (v.8-16)
 - a. The confrontation (v.8)
 - b. The confession (v.9-11)
 - c. The counsel (v.12-14)
 - d. The calm (v.15-16)
4. A fish is prepared (v.17)
 - a. Jonah, by a miracle performed by God, is in the belly of this fish for 3 days and nights.
 - i. In **Matthew 12:40** the "great fish", according to strong's could be a sea monster, whale or great fish. (**g2785**)

III. Jonah's prayer & God's Power (2:1-10)

A. Jonah's despair (2:1-6)

1. The waters close around him (2:1-5a)

2. Seaweed wraps itself around his head (2:5b)
 3. He sinks to the bottom (2:6)
- B. Jonah's dedication & deliverance (v.7-9,10)
1. The sailors believed someone on the ship was to blame for the storm, they believed God or a god had been angered.
 2. The lot fell on Jonah, one would assume that God caused this to take place.
 3. The "sea monster" or great fish vomits Jonah out (2:10).
 - a. Stomach acid and bile are common in vomit.
 - i. These make for a disgusting image, no doubt God views sin the same way – disgusting.
 - ii. Some believe that Job's skin tone would have been affected by this.
 - iii. Jonah would not soon forget this experience.

IV. Lessons for us today.

A. God is Omnipresent.

1. God is everywhere (**Ps 14:2**)
2. For this reason there was no where for Jonah to run and where for us to run today (**Ps 139:7-12**)

B. Lessons from sin and vomit

1. Vomit is used repeatedly to show God's feelings toward sin.
 - a. **Jeremiah 48:25-26**
 - b. **2 Peter 2:22**
 - c. **Revelation 3:16**
2. Sin is disgusting and those involved in it are repeatedly referred to as those who wallow in vomit, those returning to vomit and other things to show God's great disgust with sin and those who will not flee from it.

Application & Conclusion:

1. Let us learn from Job and not let our actions disgust God.
2. Let us also realize we should run to God and not attempt to flee from Him.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9