

April 15, 1912; Titanic sunk; regardless of class. There's an iceberg ahead and we're in the same boat!

Week2 of Abounding Mercy. Main point: God's mercy meets us in ways we never expect!

1. The effects of sin (vv7-10)

Jonah's soundtrack: Kansas, "Carry on my wayward son, there'll be peace when you are done, lay your weary head to rest, don't you cry no more!" Bent on disobedience; makes his way to stormy deck, confronted with sin.

To this point, it's still hidden, but not effects: storm without is a result of the storm within. Whirlwind!

Whose fault? The sailors see others' sins as worse than their own, "It must be someone else's fault! Can't be me. Not us!" Looking for the greatest sinner amongst them, his fault! They're spiritually blind. *How easy that is to do!*

Cast lots; **Pr16:33**, "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD." No such thing as luck! Watchful eye and providential care of God! *Ever win something you didn't want?*

"Hey, you won!" Questions: *who[se]* are you? Which deity do you claim? v9: Whether or not Jonah realized it, what he saw as separating himself from them (I am a Hebrew) actually united him to them (LORD made). All humanity is in the same boat as Divine Image bearers!

Keller, "When loyalty to his people and loyalty to the Word of God seemed to be in conflict, he chose to support his nation over taking God's love and message to a new society." What about us?

God is making every effort to put Jonah's sin *squarely* before his face; does the same with us!

v10, "What did you do?" The surrounding nations would've undoubtedly heard about YHWH. Not localized. "Feared a great fear;" they seem to have a firmer grasp of YHWH than Jonah did!

An honest and accurate answer to questions would've presented Jonah with opportunity to repent; Sin always surfaces: Achan: defeat at Ai; David: 70,000 died; Moses, **Ex.2:14**, *surely* thing is known!

2. The efforts to fix it (vv11-13)

Hurricane; weathered sailors facing their worst nightmare: storm, God's pursuing! Against them (v13)

Recognition but not repentance. So set on disobedience was Jonah, he'd rather die than obey! Hurl!

What draws one toward pushes another away; the same sun that melts wax, hardens clay.

Heb3:13, "But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

Buck Barrow, brother of Clyde Barrow (Bonnie & Clyde) was once asked, "Where are you wanted by the law?" Barrow replied, "Wherever I've been." Nowhere to run; nowhere to hide!

v11, "What do we do?" Reflects the human predicament! Vain efforts and unsuccessful attempts.

v13, Rowed hard (dug in); blistering, burning, splintered hands! Seeking to preserve Jonah's life!

Putting themselves at great risk after losing much of their livelihood in the cargo that went overboard! They're living how Jonah should've, and better than he deserves. All hands on deck! Grab an oar!

Rock of Ages, “Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling; Naked, come to Thee for dress, Helpless, look to Thee for grace; Vile, I to the fountain fly, Wash me, savior, or I die.”

The sea is a picture of God’s fury/wrath against rebellion and sin and they can’t escape it (v13b).

Acts27:20, “When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.”

3. The experience of mercy (vv14-16)

Pagans praying and the prophet stays quiet! LORD (5x)! Didn’t know 10 Commandments; something within; natural law; Innocent (v14); evil (vv7-8, vv2,6).

Hurl him! As his body hits the water; storm stops. Eerie calm after the storm. As body sinks beneath the surface, the hope of the message he didn’t want to share changed sailor’s lives, he never sees it.

What sailors (*we*) were powerless to do; God does. Peace restored; “pleased you,” confronted with God, cfv9, not the impotent idols they’ve clung to in the past!

Jacques Ellul, “If it’s true that the sacrifice of a man who takes his condemnation can save others around him, then this is far more true when the one sacrificed is the Son of God. It’s solely because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that the sacrifice of Jonah avails and saves.”

Salvation through substitution!

Experience mercy; wrath absorbed (propitiation). **1Jn4:10**, “This is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Progression of fear: Jonah’s “fear” (v9) caused him to *flee* from God; sailors’ fear drove them *to* God (vv5,10,16); feared YHWH with a great fear: conversion to God; reverence, awe, trust, *obedience*!

Not perfect faith; faith in perfect God! Sacrifice (then), offering vows (future) comes *after* deliverance!

Recap: God’s mercy meets us in ways we never expect!

Running from God? The boat won’t weather the storm forever, waves of God’s wrath crashing over the bow. We will either drown under God’s wrath or experience the peace offered through Christ’s sacrifice for us. **Mt8:25**, “Save us, Lord, we are perishing!” **Mk4:39**, “Peace, be still!” Storm, wrath.

Sin drowned: **Mic7**, “Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity, passing over transgression? He doesn’t retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. You’ll cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.”

Benediction: Psalm 139:23-24