

D. What shall we do to you? (1:11-16)

Jonah: The Absurdity of God's Compassion (Part 2)

Jerry Cisar — May 8, 2022

Text: Jonah 1:1-16

Introduction

"Jonah is a ridiculous excuse for a prophet—the holy man as screwup—and we are just like him.... [W]e have to begin by being willing to identify with the ridiculous prophet ourselves. Otherwise we miss the point of the joke." (Cary. Jonah: Brazos Theo. Comm.)

LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

Love the Gospel

- How does Jonah respond to God's call? How might that compare to Israel's calling as a people and their response? The church's?
- What is the significance of Tarshish in prophetic literature in Scripture? What are ways that we might choose Tarshish over God's call to us as a people?
- What should we make of Jonah's willingness to die in order to save the sailors from disaster?

Live the Gospel

- Is the captain's question of Jonah ("What are you doing *deep asleep?*") a fair question for the church today? Explain.
- Have you ever found yourself running from the presence of the Lord? What was that like for you? How did it come to an end?

Advance the Gospel

- Have you ever considered that our obedience or disobedience as the people of God in this community impacts everyone in this community? Does it? How might we respond to this?
- How might Jonah's interaction with the sailors instruct our own engagement with the world about issues of well-being?

I. The Lord Speaks (1:1-2)

A. The entire story begins with the Word of the Lord.

B. What is this word?

- i. Nineveh
 - a) Nahum 1 "God's Wrath Against Nineveh."
 - b) Nahum 2 The Destruction of Nineveh
 - c) Nahum 3 Explains why (Nahum 3:1-7)

Jonah is not the odd man out for preferring God's judgment on this wicked place rather than showing compassion.

- ii. Imagine you don't know what Jonah says in chapter 4 yet.

II. Jonah's Response (1:3)

- A. How does Jonah respond?
 - i. It may appear that Jonah is obeying... "He rose up..."

 - ii. Jonah responds to his call by doing everything he can to run from God.

 - iii. Where does he go? To Tarshish
 - a) In v3, we are told 3x that Jonah was headed to Tarshish.

 - b) It is not known with certainty where Tarshish was.

 - c) What was Tarshish in prophetic literature?
 - Kings and Chronicles

 - Isaiah 2:12-17 Tarshish represents human hubris and wealth.

 - d) Jonah is fleeing "from before the face of the Lord." Jonah seeks a place of comfort and safety in humans can supply. Jonah would prefer a comfortable life than one of confronting evil.
 - Jonah in contrast to Amos (7:9-11)

 - e) Jonah is running from one enemy of God's people to another... one he is more comfortable with.

- B. Jonah keeps going down!
 - i. Anywhere you go from the presence of the Lord is down.

 - ii. Jonah then paid the fare.

III. The Lord Acts (1:4-16)

- A. First the Lord spoke. Now He acts. (1:4)
 - i. Returning to chaos.

 - ii. It impacts everyone on the ship with Jonah.

- B. Everyone else doesn't always know why. (1:5-6)
 - i. The first thing these sailors do is what we do every time we face a crisis... everything humanly possible.

 - ii. The sailors are more committed to their spirituality than Jonah was to his own.

 - iii. Robert Alter: "What are you doing *deep asleep*? Call out to your god. Perhaps the god will give some thought to us, that we may not perish."
 - a) Isaiah calls the people of God to wake up from their slumber repeatedly.

 - b) Paul quotes Isaiah on the same point, calling the church to wake up!

 - c) What does the captain ask Jonah to do?
 - To wake up and pray! Being awake is associated with prayer in the NT repeatedly.

- C. There is another evil in this story. (1:7-10)
 - i. "On whose account has this evil come upon us?"

 - ii. Ironically, he tells them that he "fears the Lord (YHWH)," but then he tells them who YHWH is.

D. What shall we do to you? (1:11-16)

Jonah: The Absurdity of God's Compassion (Part 2)

Jerry Cisar — May 8, 2022

Text: Jonah 1:1-16

Introduction

"Jonah is a ridiculous excuse for a prophet—the holy man as screwup—and we are just like him.... [W]e have to begin by being willing to identify with the ridiculous prophet ourselves. Otherwise we miss the point of the joke." (Cary. Jonah: Brazos Theo. Comm.)

LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

Love the Gospel

- How does Jonah respond to God's call? How might that compare to Israel's calling as a people and their response? The church's?
- What is the significance of Tarshish in prophetic literature in Scripture? What are ways that we might choose Tarshish over God's call to us as a people?
- What should we make of Jonah's willingness to die in order to save the sailors from disaster?

Live the Gospel

- Is the captain's question of Jonah ("What are you doing *deep asleep?*") a fair question for the church today? Explain.
- Have you ever found yourself running from the presence of the Lord? What was that like for you? How did it come to an end?

Advance the Gospel

- Have you ever considered that our obedience or disobedience as the people of God in this community impacts everyone in this community? Does it? How might we respond to this?
- How might Jonah's interaction with the sailors instruct our own engagement with the world about issues of well-being?

I. The Lord Speaks (1:1-2)

A. The entire story begins with the Word of the Lord.

B. What is this word?

- i. Nineveh
 - a) Nahum 1 "God's Wrath Against Nineveh."
 - b) Nahum 2 The Destruction of Nineveh
 - c) Nahum 3 Explains why (Nahum 3:1-7)

Jonah is not the odd man out for preferring God's judgment on this wicked place rather than showing compassion.

- ii. Imagine you don't know what Jonah says in chapter 4 yet.

II. Jonah's Response (1:3)

- A. How does Jonah respond?
 - i. It may appear that Jonah is obeying... "He rose up..."

 - ii. Jonah responds to his call by doing everything he can to run from God.

 - iii. Where does he go? To Tarshish
 - a) In v3, we are told 3x that Jonah was headed to Tarshish.

 - b) It is not known with certainty where Tarshish was.

 - c) What was Tarshish in prophetic literature?
 - Kings and Chronicles

 - Isaiah 2:12-17 Tarshish represents human hubris and wealth.

 - d) Jonah is fleeing "from before the face of the Lord." Jonah seeks a place of comfort and safety in humans can supply. Jonah would prefer a comfortable life than one of confronting evil.
 - Jonah in contrast to Amos (7:9-11)

 - e) Jonah is running from one enemy of God's people to another... one he is more comfortable with.

- B. Jonah keeps going down!
 - i. Anywhere you go from the presence of the Lord is down.

 - ii. Jonah then paid the fare.

III. The Lord Acts (1:4-16)

- A. First the Lord spoke. Now He acts. (1:4)
 - i. Returning to chaos.

 - ii. It impacts everyone on the ship with Jonah.

- B. Everyone else doesn't always know why. (1:5-6)
 - i. The first thing these sailors do is what we do every time we face a crisis... everything humanly possible.

 - ii. The sailors are more committed to their spirituality than Jonah was to his own.

 - iii. Robert Alter: "What are you doing *deep asleep*? Call out to your god. Perhaps the god will give some thought to us, that we may not perish."
 - a) Isaiah calls the people of God to wake up from their slumber repeatedly.

 - b) Paul quotes Isaiah on the same point, calling the church to wake up!

 - c) What does the captain ask Jonah to do?
 - To wake up and pray! Being awake is associated with prayer in the NT repeatedly.

- C. There is another evil in this story. (1:7-10)
 - i. "On whose account has this evil come upon us?"

 - ii. Ironically, he tells them that he "fears the Lord (YHWH)," but then he tells them who YHWH is.

D. What shall we do to you? (1:11-16)

Jonah: The Absurdity of God's Compassion (Part 2)

Jerry Cisar — May 8, 2022

Text: Jonah 1:1-16

Introduction

"Jonah is a ridiculous excuse for a prophet—the holy man as screwup—and we are just like him.... [W]e have to begin by being willing to identify with the ridiculous prophet ourselves. Otherwise we miss the point of the joke." (Cary. Jonah: Brazos Theo. Comm.)

LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

Love the Gospel

- How does Jonah respond to God's call? How might that compare to Israel's calling as a people and their response? The church's?
- What is the significance of Tarshish in prophetic literature in Scripture? What are ways that we might choose Tarshish over God's call to us as a people?
- What should we make of Jonah's willingness to die in order to save the sailors from disaster?

Live the Gospel

- Is the captain's question of Jonah ("What are you doing *deep asleep?*") a fair question for the church today? Explain.
- Have you ever found yourself running from the presence of the Lord? What was that like for you? How did it come to an end?

Advance the Gospel

- Have you ever considered that our obedience or disobedience as the people of God in this community impacts everyone in this community? Does it? How might we respond to this?
- How might Jonah's interaction with the sailors instruct our own engagement with the world about issues of well-being?

I. The Lord Speaks (1:1-2)

A. The entire story begins with the Word of the Lord.

B. What is this word?

- i. Nineveh
 - a) Nahum 1 "God's Wrath Against Nineveh."
 - b) Nahum 2 The Destruction of Nineveh
 - c) Nahum 3 Explains why (Nahum 3:1-7)

Jonah is not the odd man out for preferring God's judgment on this wicked place rather than showing compassion.

- ii. Imagine you don't know what Jonah says in chapter 4 yet.

II. Jonah's Response (1:3)

- A. How does Jonah respond?
 - i. It may appear that Jonah is obeying... "He rose up..."

 - ii. Jonah responds to his call by doing everything he can to run from God.

 - iii. Where does he go? To Tarshish
 - a) In v3, we are told 3x that Jonah was headed to Tarshish.
 - b) It is not known with certainty where Tarshish was.

 - c) What was Tarshish in prophetic literature?
 - Kings and Chronicles
 - Isaiah 2:12-17 Tarshish represents human hubris and wealth.
 - d) Jonah is fleeing "from before the face of the Lord." Jonah seeks a place of comfort and safety in humans can supply. Jonah would prefer a comfortable life than one of confronting evil.
 - Jonah in contrast to Amos (7:9-11)
 - e) Jonah is running from one enemy of God's people to another... one he is more comfortable with.

- B. Jonah keeps going down!
 - i. Anywhere you go from the presence of the Lord is down.

 - ii. Jonah then paid the fare.

III. The Lord Acts (1:4-16)

- A. First the Lord spoke. Now He acts. (1:4)
 - i. Returning to chaos.

 - ii. It impacts everyone on the ship with Jonah.

- B. Everyone else doesn't always know why. (1:5-6)
 - i. The first thing these sailors do is what we do every time we face a crisis... everything humanly possible.

 - ii. The sailors are more committed to their spirituality than Jonah was to his own.

 - iii. Robert Alter: "What are you doing *deep asleep*? Call out to your god. Perhaps the god will give some thought to us, that we may not perish."
 - a) Isaiah calls the people of God to wake up from their slumber repeatedly.
 - b) Paul quotes Isaiah on the same point, calling the church to wake up!
 - c) What does the captain ask Jonah to do?
 - To wake up and pray! Being awake is associated with prayer in the NT repeatedly.

- C. There is another evil in this story. (1:7-10)
 - i. "On whose account has this evil come upon us?"

 - ii. Ironically, he tells them that he "fears the Lord (YHWH)," but then he tells them who YHWH is.

D. What shall we do to you? (1:11-16)

Jonah: The Absurdity of God's Compassion (Part 2)

Jerry Cisar — May 8, 2022

Text: Jonah 1:1-16

Introduction

"Jonah is a ridiculous excuse for a prophet—the holy man as screwup—and we are just like him.... [W]e have to begin by being willing to identify with the ridiculous prophet ourselves. Otherwise we miss the point of the joke." (Cary. Jonah: Brazos Theo. Comm.)

LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

Love the Gospel

- How does Jonah respond to God's call? How might that compare to Israel's calling as a people and their response? The church's?
- What is the significance of Tarshish in prophetic literature in Scripture? What are ways that we might choose Tarshish over God's call to us as a people?
- What should we make of Jonah's willingness to die in order to save the sailors from disaster?

Live the Gospel

- Is the captain's question of Jonah ("What are you doing *deep asleep?*") a fair question for the church today? Explain.
- Have you ever found yourself running from the presence of the Lord? What was that like for you? How did it come to an end?

Advance the Gospel

- Have you ever considered that our obedience or disobedience as the people of God in this community impacts everyone in this community? Does it? How might we respond to this?
- How might Jonah's interaction with the sailors instruct our own engagement with the world about issues of well-being?

I. The Lord Speaks (1:1-2)

A. The entire story begins with the Word of the Lord.

B. What is this word?

- i. Nineveh
 - a) Nahum 1 "God's Wrath Against Nineveh."
 - b) Nahum 2 The Destruction of Nineveh
 - c) Nahum 3 Explains why (Nahum 3:1-7)

Jonah is not the odd man out for preferring God's judgment on this wicked place rather than showing compassion.

- ii. Imagine you don't know what Jonah says in chapter 4 yet.

II. Jonah's Response (1:3)

- A. How does Jonah respond?
 - i. It may appear that Jonah is obeying... "He rose up..."

 - ii. Jonah responds to his call by doing everything he can to run from God.

 - iii. Where does he go? To Tarshish
 - a) In v3, we are told 3x that Jonah was headed to Tarshish.

 - b) It is not known with certainty where Tarshish was.

 - c) What was Tarshish in prophetic literature?
 - Kings and Chronicles

 - Isaiah 2:12-17 Tarshish represents human hubris and wealth.

 - d) Jonah is fleeing "from before the face of the Lord." Jonah seeks a place of comfort and safety in humans can supply. Jonah would prefer a comfortable life than one of confronting evil.
 - Jonah in contrast to Amos (7:9-11)

 - e) Jonah is running from one enemy of God's people to another... one he is more comfortable with.

- B. Jonah keeps going down!
 - i. Anywhere you go from the presence of the Lord is down.

 - ii. Jonah then paid the fare.

III. The Lord Acts (1:4-16)

- A. First the Lord spoke. Now He acts. (1:4)
 - i. Returning to chaos.

 - ii. It impacts everyone on the ship with Jonah.

- B. Everyone else doesn't always know why. (1:5-6)
 - i. The first thing these sailors do is what we do every time we face a crisis... everything humanly possible.

 - ii. The sailors are more committed to their spirituality than Jonah was to his own.

 - iii. Robert Alter: "What are you doing *deep asleep*? Call out to your god. Perhaps the god will give some thought to us, that we may not perish."
 - a) Isaiah calls the people of God to wake up from their slumber repeatedly.

 - b) Paul quotes Isaiah on the same point, calling the church to wake up!

 - c) What does the captain ask Jonah to do?
 - To wake up and pray! Being awake is associated with prayer in the NT repeatedly.

- C. There is another evil in this story. (1:7-10)
 - i. "On whose account has this evil come upon us?"

 - ii. Ironically, he tells them that he "fears the Lord (YHWH)," but then he tells them who YHWH is.

D. What shall we do to you? (1:11-16)

Jonah: The Absurdity of God's Compassion (Part 2)

Jerry Cisar — May 8, 2022

Text: Jonah 1:1-16

Introduction

"Jonah is a ridiculous excuse for a prophet—the holy man as screwup—and we are just like him.... [W]e have to begin by being willing to identify with the ridiculous prophet ourselves. Otherwise we miss the point of the joke." (Cary. Jonah: Brazos Theo. Comm.)

LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

Love the Gospel

- How does Jonah respond to God's call? How might that compare to Israel's calling as a people and their response? The church's?
- What is the significance of Tarshish in prophetic literature in Scripture? What are ways that we might choose Tarshish over God's call to us as a people?
- What should we make of Jonah's willingness to die in order to save the sailors from disaster?

Live the Gospel

- Is the captain's question of Jonah ("What are you doing *deep asleep?*") a fair question for the church today? Explain.
- Have you ever found yourself running from the presence of the Lord? What was that like for you? How did it come to an end?

Advance the Gospel

- Have you ever considered that our obedience or disobedience as the people of God in this community impacts everyone in this community? Does it? How might we respond to this?
- How might Jonah's interaction with the sailors instruct our own engagement with the world about issues of well-being?

I. The Lord Speaks (1:1-2)

A. The entire story begins with the Word of the Lord.

B. What is this word?

- i. Nineveh
 - a) Nahum 1 "God's Wrath Against Nineveh."
 - b) Nahum 2 The Destruction of Nineveh
 - c) Nahum 3 Explains why (Nahum 3:1-7)

Jonah is not the odd man out for preferring God's judgment on this wicked place rather than showing compassion.

- ii. Imagine you don't know what Jonah says in chapter 4 yet.

II. Jonah's Response (1:3)

- A. How does Jonah respond?
 - i. It may appear that Jonah is obeying... "He rose up..."

 - ii. Jonah responds to his call by doing everything he can to run from God.

 - iii. Where does he go? To Tarshish
 - a) In v3, we are told 3x that Jonah was headed to Tarshish.

 - b) It is not known with certainty where Tarshish was.

 - c) What was Tarshish in prophetic literature?
 - Kings and Chronicles

 - Isaiah 2:12-17 Tarshish represents human hubris and wealth.

 - d) Jonah is fleeing "from before the face of the Lord." Jonah seeks a place of comfort and safety in humans can supply. Jonah would prefer a comfortable life than one of confronting evil.
 - Jonah in contrast to Amos (7:9-11)

 - e) Jonah is running from one enemy of God's people to another... one he is more comfortable with.

- B. Jonah keeps going down!
 - i. Anywhere you go from the presence of the Lord is down.

 - ii. Jonah then paid the fare.

III. The Lord Acts (1:4-16)

- A. First the Lord spoke. Now He acts. (1:4)
 - i. Returning to chaos.

 - ii. It impacts everyone on the ship with Jonah.

- B. Everyone else doesn't always know why. (1:5-6)
 - i. The first thing these sailors do is what we do every time we face a crisis... everything humanly possible.

 - ii. The sailors are more committed to their spirituality than Jonah was to his own.

 - iii. Robert Alter: "What are you doing *deep asleep*? Call out to your god. Perhaps the god will give some thought to us, that we may not perish."
 - a) Isaiah calls the people of God to wake up from their slumber repeatedly.

 - b) Paul quotes Isaiah on the same point, calling the church to wake up!

 - c) What does the captain ask Jonah to do?
 - To wake up and pray! Being awake is associated with prayer in the NT repeatedly.

- C. There is another evil in this story. (1:7-10)
 - i. "On whose account has this evil come upon us?"

 - ii. Ironically, he tells them that he "fears the Lord (YHWH)," but then he tells them who YHWH is.

D. What shall we do to you? (1:11-16)

Jonah: The Absurdity of God's Compassion (Part 2)

Jerry Cisar — May 8, 2022

Text: Jonah 1:1-16

Introduction

"Jonah is a ridiculous excuse for a prophet—the holy man as screwup—and we are just like him.... [W]e have to begin by being willing to identify with the ridiculous prophet ourselves. Otherwise we miss the point of the joke." (Cary. Jonah: Brazos Theo. Comm.)

LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

Love the Gospel

- How does Jonah respond to God's call? How might that compare to Israel's calling as a people and their response? The church's?
- What is the significance of Tarshish in prophetic literature in Scripture? What are ways that we might choose Tarshish over God's call to us as a people?
- What should we make of Jonah's willingness to die in order to save the sailors from disaster?

Live the Gospel

- Is the captain's question of Jonah ("What are you doing *deep asleep?*") a fair question for the church today? Explain.
- Have you ever found yourself running from the presence of the Lord? What was that like for you? How did it come to an end?

Advance the Gospel

- Have you ever considered that our obedience or disobedience as the people of God in this community impacts everyone in this community? Does it? How might we respond to this?
- How might Jonah's interaction with the sailors instruct our own engagement with the world about issues of well-being?

I. The Lord Speaks (1:1-2)

A. The entire story begins with the Word of the Lord.

B. What is this word?

- i. Nineveh
 - a) Nahum 1 "God's Wrath Against Nineveh."
 - b) Nahum 2 The Destruction of Nineveh
 - c) Nahum 3 Explains why (Nahum 3:1-7)

Jonah is not the odd man out for preferring God's judgment on this wicked place rather than showing compassion.

- ii. Imagine you don't know what Jonah says in chapter 4 yet.

II. Jonah's Response (1:3)

- A. How does Jonah respond?
 - i. It may appear that Jonah is obeying... "He rose up..."
 - ii. Jonah responds to his call by doing everything he can to run from God.
 - iii. Where does he go? To Tarshish
 - a) In v3, we are told 3x that Jonah was headed to Tarshish.
 - b) It is not known with certainty where Tarshish was.
 - c) What was Tarshish in prophetic literature?
 - Kings and Chronicles
 - Isaiah 2:12-17 Tarshish represents human hubris and wealth.
 - d) Jonah is fleeing "from before the face of the Lord." Jonah seeks a place of comfort and safety in humans can supply. Jonah would prefer a comfortable life than one of confronting evil.
 - Jonah in contrast to Amos (7:9-11)
 - e) Jonah is running from one enemy of God's people to another... one he is more comfortable with.
- B. Jonah keeps going down!
 - i. Anywhere you go from the presence of the Lord is down.
 - ii. Jonah then paid the fare.

III. The Lord Acts (1:4-16)

- A. First the Lord spoke. Now He acts. (1:4)
 - i. Returning to chaos.
 - ii. It impacts everyone on the ship with Jonah.
- B. Everyone else doesn't always know why. (1:5-6)
 - i. The first thing these sailors do is what we do every time we face a crisis... everything humanly possible.
 - ii. The sailors are more committed to their spirituality than Jonah was to his own.
 - iii. Robert Alter: "What are you doing *deep asleep*? Call out to your god. Perhaps the god will give some thought to us, that we may not perish."
 - a) Isaiah calls the people of God to wake up from their slumber repeatedly.
 - b) Paul quotes Isaiah on the same point, calling the church to wake up!
 - c) What does the captain ask Jonah to do?
 - To wake up and pray! Being awake is associated with prayer in the NT repeatedly.
- C. There is another evil in this story. (1:7-10)
 - i. "On whose account has this evil come upon us?"
 - ii. Ironically, he tells them that he "fears the Lord (YHWH)," but then he tells them who YHWH is.

D. What shall we do to you? (1:11-16)

Jonah: The Absurdity of God's Compassion (Part 2)

Jerry Cisar — May 8, 2022

Text: Jonah 1:1-16

Introduction

"Jonah is a ridiculous excuse for a prophet—the holy man as screwup—and we are just like him.... [W]e have to begin by being willing to identify with the ridiculous prophet ourselves. Otherwise we miss the point of the joke." (Cary. Jonah: Brazos Theo. Comm.)

LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

Love the Gospel

- How does Jonah respond to God's call? How might that compare to Israel's calling as a people and their response? The church's?
- What is the significance of Tarshish in prophetic literature in Scripture? What are ways that we might choose Tarshish over God's call to us as a people?
- What should we make of Jonah's willingness to die in order to save the sailors from disaster?

Live the Gospel

- Is the captain's question of Jonah ("What are you doing *deep asleep?*") a fair question for the church today? Explain.
- Have you ever found yourself running from the presence of the Lord? What was that like for you? How did it come to an end?

Advance the Gospel

- Have you ever considered that our obedience or disobedience as the people of God in this community impacts everyone in this community? Does it? How might we respond to this?
- How might Jonah's interaction with the sailors instruct our own engagement with the world about issues of well-being?

I. The Lord Speaks (1:1-2)

A. The entire story begins with the Word of the Lord.

B. What is this word?

- i. Nineveh
 - a) Nahum 1 "God's Wrath Against Nineveh."
 - b) Nahum 2 The Destruction of Nineveh
 - c) Nahum 3 Explains why (Nahum 3:1-7)

Jonah is not the odd man out for preferring God's judgment on this wicked place rather than showing compassion.

- ii. Imagine you don't know what Jonah says in chapter 4 yet.

II. Jonah's Response (1:3)

- A. How does Jonah respond?
 - i. It may appear that Jonah is obeying... "He rose up..."

 - ii. Jonah responds to his call by doing everything he can to run from God.

 - iii. Where does he go? To Tarshish
 - a) In v3, we are told 3x that Jonah was headed to Tarshish.

 - b) It is not known with certainty where Tarshish was.

 - c) What was Tarshish in prophetic literature?
 - Kings and Chronicles

 - Isaiah 2:12-17 Tarshish represents human hubris and wealth.

 - d) Jonah is fleeing "from before the face of the Lord." Jonah seeks a place of comfort and safety in humans can supply. Jonah would prefer a comfortable life than one of confronting evil.
 - Jonah in contrast to Amos (7:9-11)

 - e) Jonah is running from one enemy of God's people to another... one he is more comfortable with.

- B. Jonah keeps going down!
 - i. Anywhere you go from the presence of the Lord is down.

 - ii. Jonah then paid the fare.

III. The Lord Acts (1:4-16)

- A. First the Lord spoke. Now He acts. (1:4)
 - i. Returning to chaos.

 - ii. It impacts everyone on the ship with Jonah.

- B. Everyone else doesn't always know why. (1:5-6)
 - i. The first thing these sailors do is what we do every time we face a crisis... everything humanly possible.

 - ii. The sailors are more committed to their spirituality than Jonah was to his own.

 - iii. Robert Alter: "What are you doing *deep asleep*? Call out to your god. Perhaps the god will give some thought to us, that we may not perish."
 - a) Isaiah calls the people of God to wake up from their slumber repeatedly.

 - b) Paul quotes Isaiah on the same point, calling the church to wake up!

 - c) What does the captain ask Jonah to do?
 - To wake up and pray! Being awake is associated with prayer in the NT repeatedly.

- C. There is another evil in this story. (1:7-10)
 - i. "On whose account has this evil come upon us?"

 - ii. Ironically, he tells them that he "fears the Lord (YHWH)," but then he tells them who YHWH is.

D. What shall we do to you? (1:11-16)

Jonah: The Absurdity of God's Compassion (Part 2)

Jerry Cisar — May 8, 2022

Text: Jonah 1:1-16

Introduction

"Jonah is a ridiculous excuse for a prophet—the holy man as screwup—and we are just like him.... [W]e have to begin by being willing to identify with the ridiculous prophet ourselves. Otherwise we miss the point of the joke." (Cary. Jonah: Brazos Theo. Comm.)

LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

Love the Gospel

- How does Jonah respond to God's call? How might that compare to Israel's calling as a people and their response? The church's?
- What is the significance of Tarshish in prophetic literature in Scripture? What are ways that we might choose Tarshish over God's call to us as a people?
- What should we make of Jonah's willingness to die in order to save the sailors from disaster?

Live the Gospel

- Is the captain's question of Jonah ("What are you doing *deep asleep?*") a fair question for the church today? Explain.
- Have you ever found yourself running from the presence of the Lord? What was that like for you? How did it come to an end?

Advance the Gospel

- Have you ever considered that our obedience or disobedience as the people of God in this community impacts everyone in this community? Does it? How might we respond to this?
- How might Jonah's interaction with the sailors instruct our own engagement with the world about issues of well-being?

I. The Lord Speaks (1:1-2)

A. The entire story begins with the Word of the Lord.

B. What is this word?

- i. Nineveh
 - a) Nahum 1 "God's Wrath Against Nineveh."
 - b) Nahum 2 The Destruction of Nineveh
 - c) Nahum 3 Explains why (Nahum 3:1-7)

Jonah is not the odd man out for preferring God's judgment on this wicked place rather than showing compassion.

- ii. Imagine you don't know what Jonah says in chapter 4 yet.

II. Jonah's Response (1:3)

- A. How does Jonah respond?
 - i. It may appear that Jonah is obeying... "He rose up..."

 - ii. Jonah responds to his call by doing everything he can to run from God.

 - iii. Where does he go? To Tarshish
 - a) In v3, we are told 3x that Jonah was headed to Tarshish.

 - b) It is not known with certainty where Tarshish was.

 - c) What was Tarshish in prophetic literature?
 - Kings and Chronicles

 - Isaiah 2:12-17 Tarshish represents human hubris and wealth.

 - d) Jonah is fleeing "from before the face of the Lord." Jonah seeks a place of comfort and safety in humans can supply. Jonah would prefer a comfortable life than one of confronting evil.
 - Jonah in contrast to Amos (7:9-11)

 - e) Jonah is running from one enemy of God's people to another... one he is more comfortable with.

- B. Jonah keeps going down!
 - i. Anywhere you go from the presence of the Lord is down.

 - ii. Jonah then paid the fare.

III. The Lord Acts (1:4-16)

- A. First the Lord spoke. Now He acts. (1:4)
 - i. Returning to chaos.

 - ii. It impacts everyone on the ship with Jonah.

- B. Everyone else doesn't always know why. (1:5-6)
 - i. The first thing these sailors do is what we do every time we face a crisis... everything humanly possible.

 - ii. The sailors are more committed to their spirituality than Jonah was to his own.

 - iii. Robert Alter: "What are you doing *deep asleep*? Call out to your god. Perhaps the god will give some thought to us, that we may not perish."
 - a) Isaiah calls the people of God to wake up from their slumber repeatedly.

 - b) Paul quotes Isaiah on the same point, calling the church to wake up!

 - c) What does the captain ask Jonah to do?
 - To wake up and pray! Being awake is associated with prayer in the NT repeatedly.

- C. There is another evil in this story. (1:7-10)
 - i. "On whose account has this evil come upon us?"

 - ii. Ironically, he tells them that he "fears the Lord (YHWH)," but then he tells them who YHWH is.

D. What shall we do to you? (1:11-16)

Jonah: The Absurdity of God's Compassion (Part 2)

Jerry Cisar — May 8, 2022

Text: Jonah 1:1-16

Introduction

“Jonah is a ridiculous excuse for a prophet—the holy man as screwup—and we are just like him.... [W]e have to begin by being willing to identify with the ridiculous prophet ourselves. Otherwise we miss the point of the joke.” (Cary. Jonah: Brazos Theo. Comm.)

LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

Love the Gospel

- How does Jonah respond to God's call? How might that compare to Israel's calling as a people and their response? The church's?
- What is the significance of Tarshish in prophetic literature in Scripture? What are ways that we might choose Tarshish over God's call to us as a people?
- What should we make of Jonah's willingness to die in order to save the sailors from disaster?

Live the Gospel

- Is the captain's question of Jonah (“What are you doing *deep asleep?*”) a fair question for the church today? Explain.
- Have you ever found yourself running from the presence of the Lord? What was that like for you? How did it come to an end?

Advance the Gospel

- Have you ever considered that our obedience or disobedience as the people of God in this community impacts everyone in this community? Does it? How might we respond to this?
- How might Jonah's interaction with the sailors instruct our own engagement with the world about issues of well-being?

I. The Lord Speaks (1:1-2)

A. The entire story begins with the Word of the Lord.

B. What is this word?

- i. Nineveh
 - a) Nahum 1 “God's Wrath Against Nineveh.”
 - b) Nahum 2 The Destruction of Nineveh
 - c) Nahum 3 Explains why (Nahum 3:1-7)

Jonah is not the odd man out for preferring God's judgment on this wicked place rather than showing compassion.

- ii. Imagine you don't know what Jonah says in chapter 4 yet.

II. Jonah's Response (1:3)

- A. How does Jonah respond?
 - i. It may appear that Jonah is obeying... "He rose up..."

 - ii. Jonah responds to his call by doing everything he can to run from God.

 - iii. Where does he go? To Tarshish
 - a) In v3, we are told 3x that Jonah was headed to Tarshish.

 - b) It is not known with certainty where Tarshish was.

 - c) What was Tarshish in prophetic literature?
 - Kings and Chronicles

 - Isaiah 2:12-17 Tarshish represents human hubris and wealth.

 - d) Jonah is fleeing "from before the face of the Lord." Jonah seeks a place of comfort and safety in humans can supply. Jonah would prefer a comfortable life than one of confronting evil.
 - Jonah in contrast to Amos (7:9-11)

 - e) Jonah is running from one enemy of God's people to another... one he is more comfortable with.

- B. Jonah keeps going down!
 - i. Anywhere you go from the presence of the Lord is down.

 - ii. Jonah then paid the fare.

III. The Lord Acts (1:4-16)

- A. First the Lord spoke. Now He acts. (1:4)
 - i. Returning to chaos.

 - ii. It impacts everyone on the ship with Jonah.

- B. Everyone else doesn't always know why. (1:5-6)
 - i. The first thing these sailors do is what we do every time we face a crisis... everything humanly possible.

 - ii. The sailors are more committed to their spirituality than Jonah was to his own.

 - iii. Robert Alter: "What are you doing *deep asleep*? Call out to your god. Perhaps the god will give some thought to us, that we may not perish."
 - a) Isaiah calls the people of God to wake up from their slumber repeatedly.

 - b) Paul quotes Isaiah on the same point, calling the church to wake up!

 - c) What does the captain ask Jonah to do?
 - To wake up and pray! Being awake is associated with prayer in the NT repeatedly.

- C. There is another evil in this story. (1:7-10)
 - i. "On whose account has this evil come upon us?"

 - ii. Ironically, he tells them that he "fears the Lord (YHWH)," but then he tells them who YHWH is.

D. What shall we do to you? (1:11-16)

Jonah: The Absurdity of God's Compassion (Part 2)

Jerry Cisar — May 8, 2022

Text: Jonah 1:1-16

Introduction

"Jonah is a ridiculous excuse for a prophet—the holy man as screwup—and we are just like him.... [W]e have to begin by being willing to identify with the ridiculous prophet ourselves. Otherwise we miss the point of the joke." (Cary. Jonah: Brazos Theo. Comm.)

LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

Love the Gospel

- How does Jonah respond to God's call? How might that compare to Israel's calling as a people and their response? The church's?
- What is the significance of Tarshish in prophetic literature in Scripture? What are ways that we might choose Tarshish over God's call to us as a people?
- What should we make of Jonah's willingness to die in order to save the sailors from disaster?

Live the Gospel

- Is the captain's question of Jonah ("What are you doing *deep asleep?*") a fair question for the church today? Explain.
- Have you ever found yourself running from the presence of the Lord? What was that like for you? How did it come to an end?

Advance the Gospel

- Have you ever considered that our obedience or disobedience as the people of God in this community impacts everyone in this community? Does it? How might we respond to this?
- How might Jonah's interaction with the sailors instruct our own engagement with the world about issues of well-being?

I. The Lord Speaks (1:1-2)

A. The entire story begins with the Word of the Lord.

B. What is this word?

- i. Nineveh
 - a) Nahum 1 "God's Wrath Against Nineveh."
 - b) Nahum 2 The Destruction of Nineveh
 - c) Nahum 3 Explains why (Nahum 3:1-7)

Jonah is not the odd man out for preferring God's judgment on this wicked place rather than showing compassion.

- ii. Imagine you don't know what Jonah says in chapter 4 yet.

II. Jonah's Response (1:3)

- A. How does Jonah respond?
 - i. It may appear that Jonah is obeying... "He rose up..."
 - ii. Jonah responds to his call by doing everything he can to run from God.
 - iii. Where does he go? To Tarshish
 - a) In v3, we are told 3x that Jonah was headed to Tarshish.
 - b) It is not known with certainty where Tarshish was.
 - c) What was Tarshish in prophetic literature?
 - Kings and Chronicles
 - Isaiah 2:12-17 Tarshish represents human hubris and wealth.
 - d) Jonah is fleeing "from before the face of the Lord." Jonah seeks a place of comfort and safety in humans can supply. Jonah would prefer a comfortable life than one of confronting evil.
 - Jonah in contrast to Amos (7:9-11)
 - e) Jonah is running from one enemy of God's people to another... one he is more comfortable with.
- B. Jonah keeps going down!
 - i. Anywhere you go from the presence of the Lord is down.
 - ii. Jonah then paid the fare.

III. The Lord Acts (1:4-16)

- A. First the Lord spoke. Now He acts. (1:4)
 - i. Returning to chaos.
 - ii. It impacts everyone on the ship with Jonah.
- B. Everyone else doesn't always know why. (1:5-6)
 - i. The first thing these sailors do is what we do every time we face a crisis... everything humanly possible.
 - ii. The sailors are more committed to their spirituality than Jonah was to his own.
 - iii. Robert Alter: "What are you doing *deep asleep*? Call out to your god. Perhaps the god will give some thought to us, that we may not perish."
 - a) Isaiah calls the people of God to wake up from their slumber repeatedly.
 - b) Paul quotes Isaiah on the same point, calling the church to wake up!
 - c) What does the captain ask Jonah to do?
 - To wake up and pray! Being awake is associated with prayer in the NT repeatedly.
- C. There is another evil in this story. (1:7-10)
 - i. "On whose account has this evil come upon us?"
 - ii. Ironically, he tells them that he "fears the Lord (YHWH)," but then he tells them who YHWH is.