

Call: 2 Samuel 22:20

Text: Jonah 2:10-3:5, 4:10-11; Matthew 12:38-42

Title: "Resurrection Hope"

Next Week's Call: 2 Samuel 22:21-22

Next Week's Text: Galatians 5:22-23

Next Week's Title: "The Fruit of the Spirit"

Future Calls: 2 Samuel 22:23-25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 47-49, 50-51

Future Titles: "Love" (Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 13), "Joy" (Galatians 5:22-23)

Fallen Condition Focus: We don't repent, see God's love, and have hope.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ is the greater prophet and sign to show us God's love and our hope.

Central Truth: Jesus' resurrection leads to our repentance and hope.

Summary: In the story of Jonah, we see an unfaithful prophet barely preaching God's word to people he hated. In the sign of Jonah (the resurrection), Jesus is shown to be the greater prophet, displaying God's word and work to people He loved. Through this sign, we are led to repentance, God's love, and hope.

Reflective Questions:

1. What does the sign of Jonah show us about the heart of God in Christ?
2. Why is the resurrection so important?

I. Introduction

- A. Hook
- B. Transition
- C. Proposition
- D. Points

II. The Story of Jonah (Jonah 2:10-3:5, 4:10-11)

- A. Jonah is the first prophet called to go to a Gentile city and preach to it.
- B. It's more shocking he is called to Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, one of the cruelest and most violent empires of ancient times. After capturing enemies,

the Assyrians would cut off the legs and one arm of their captives to shake their hand in mockery as he was dying. They forced family and friends to parade with decapitated heads of their loved ones elevated on poles. They flayed their prisoners alive. Professor James Bruckner calls them a “terrorist state.”

- C. Jonah doesn’t want any part in proclaiming judgment in Nineveh because he fears they would listen and repent, leading God to relent and spare them.
- D. Jonah then goes downward and boards a ship sailing to the other end of the world.
- E. God sends a storm to stop him and reveals to the pagan sailors that Jonah is the cause. Jonah says that he needs to be thrown overboard, Although Jonah doesn’t care about them, the sailors risk their lives to try to save Jonah.
- F. Jonah is thrown overboard... maybe as a sacrifice for the sailors... maybe saying he would rather die than obey God.
- G. This could have been the end of the story, but it’s not. God directs a great fish to swallow Jonah, so he can remain alive in the belly of the fish for three days. He is transported to Nineveh, and Jonah learns his lesson. He repents and is grateful in his prayer in the belly of the fish.
 - 1. However, his heart is not completely right as we see the fish “vomits” him back onto shore, near Nineveh.
- H. He preaches and the people repent. His message is only of judgment, and yet there still is repentance. You would think that this is the end of the story.
 - 1. Believed is the first word in the Hebrew text of this sentence... showing Nineveh’s immediate repentance and intense mourning.
 - 2. **“It was not the force of the argument presented by the prophet that moved the people. It was the power of God’s truth that pierced to the heart. Never rely on your own persuasive powers as the way to save sinners. Never wait until you have confidence in yourself to speak up for Christ. It is God and his truth that people believe. You must remain only the instrument.” -O. Palmer Robertson**
- I. But we see Jonah waiting outside the city to see its destruction. We see God’s heart of compassion (word that means to grieve over someone or something, to have your heart broken, to weep for it; Genesis 6), not just for Nineveh but also for Jonah.
 - 1. To teach Jonah about his heart, God raises a shade plant for Jonah and then destroys it.
 - 2. God approaches Jonah with gentleness and compassion.

3. If Jonah cares so much for a plant that is here for only a day and he didn't even create it, how much more does God care for the Ninevites?
 1. You weep over a plant, but I weep for these people. God weeps
4. Ninevites were wicked, and yet, God describes them as people who don't know their right hand from their left.

III. The Sign of Jonah (Matthew 12:38-42)

- A. Jesus has been performing miracles up to this point, and yet they demand another sign.
 1. It's like John 6 when the people ask for a sign even after the feeding of the 5000 men; 15000 people most likely.
 2. Jesus is not a puppet or a circus performer. His signs are for a purpose.
- B. Jesus refers to the sign of Jonah as the ultimate sign.
- C. Jonah's story is the sign itself.
 1. Jonah's sacrifice into the sea led to the salvation of the sailors
 2. Jonah should have been dead, but he was alive after three days in the heart of the sea in the belly of a fish.
 3. Jonah's figurative death/resurrection redemption paved the way for the salvation of Nineveh
 4. This sign shows us the love, grace, and compassion of God for wicked sinners, like the Ninevites.
 5. The sign of Jonah shows us that His message is from God.
 6. The story of Jonah points to Jesus' resurrection, and through His resurrection we see the heart of God for us... and that His message is true, from God.
- D. A greater Jonah is here.
 1. Jonah was thrown into the sea to die to save the sailors on the boat; Jesus was thrown into the sea of judgment on the cross, where He did die to save sinners like us.

1. "At this point, Jonah takes up the role of the scapegoat. The sacrifice he makes saves them. The sea calms down. He saves them humanly and materially... Jonah is an example of the Christian way... What counts is that this story is in reality the precise intimation of an infinitely vaster story and one which concerns us directly. What Jonah could not do, but his attitude announces, is done by Jesus Christ. He it is who accepts total condemnation... Jonah is not Jesus Christ... but he is one of the long line of types of Jesus, each representing an aspect of what the Son of God will be in totality... [and] if it is 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 himself... It is solely because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that the sacrifice of Jonah avails and saves.” -Jacques Ellul

2. Jonah went to His enemies, whom he hated; Jesus went to His people whom He loved.
 3. Jonah declared impending judgment, Jesus declared impending salvation.
 4. Jonah came with words; Jesus came with words and deeds.
 5. Jonah was a man of God; Jesus is the Son of God.
 6. Jonah preached reluctantly, hoping for destruction; Jesus preached lovingly willing to be destroyed so the people may be saved.
 7. Jonah waited outside the city to see the judgment of God; Jesus wept for the city (embodiment of compassion) and received the judgment of God for His people
- E. Jesus says that He is the wiser king, more than Solomon.
- F. In v. 6 of this chapter, we see that Jesus is the greater temple... and the temple system.
- G. Jesus is saying that He is the greater Prophet, Priest, and King.

IV. What It Means For Us

A. Real Hope

1. Witnesses of the resurrected Christ
2. Eyewitness accounts being women
3. Transformation of disciples
4. Explosion of the church, especially to poor and marginalized

B. Personal Hope

1. The resurrection is the sign of God's heart of compassion, love, and mercy for us. Does this lead to our repentance?
2. **“God weeps over the evil and lostness of Nineveh. When you put your love on someone, you can be happy only if they are happy, and their distress becomes your distress... Jonah did not weep over the city, but Jesus, the true prophet, did... Jesus is the prophet Jonah should have been. Yet, of course, he is infinitely more than that. Jesus did not merely weep for us; he died for us.”**
-Tim Keller

C. Past Hope

1. Resurrection is God's stamp of approval on Jesus' words and work.
 1. Jesus is the true Messiah, the Son of God.

2. Our sins have been atoned for; we are justified.

D. Present Hope

1. The resurrection of Christ means that we have resurrection life now.
New creation is the new heavens and the new earth... and new creation has entered the present through our resurrected hearts.
2. Heaven and future has broken into the earth and the present.

E. Future Hope

1. One day, everything will be made right. We will be resurrected in glory.
There will be no more tears, shame, sin, and death.
2. And because of that day, we can persevere today.