



Bad Prophet, Good God: The Martyr | Jonah 1:4-17

Jonah 1:4-17

⁴ But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵ Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. ⁶ So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish."

⁷ And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸ Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" ⁹ And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

¹⁰ Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

¹¹ Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. ¹² He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you." ¹³ Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. ¹⁴ Therefore they called out to the Lord, "O Lord, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you." ¹⁵ So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and

the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶ Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. ¹⁷ And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

From intellectually knowing truth, to applying truth...

Jonah 1:9-10

⁹ And *he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."* ¹⁰ Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For *the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord*, because he had told them.

Jonah 1:9-10

⁹ And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." ¹⁰ Then *the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!"* For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

Isaiah 29:13

And the Lord said:

"Because this people draw near with their mouth
and honor me with their lips,
while their hearts are far from me,
and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men,

James 1:22-25

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

From living with self-pity, to living with humility

Jonah 1:12

¹² He said to them, "*Pick me up and hurl me into the sea*; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you."

Jonah 1:14

¹⁴ Therefore *they called out to the Lord*, “O Lord, let us not perish for this man’s life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you.”

C.S. Lewis

“Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking of yourself less.”—C.S. Lewis

1 Corinthians 3:18

¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

James 4:6

⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

From transactional deal-making, to worshipful repentance

Jonah 1:12

¹² He said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; *then the sea will quiet down for you*, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.”

Jonah 1:16

¹⁶ Then *the men feared the Lord exceedingly*, and *they offered a sacrifice to the Lord* and *made vows*.

God does not exist that we might see Him as useful; we exist that we might see Him as wonderful.

Jonah 1:17

¹⁷ And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Matthew 12:38-40

³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” ³⁹ But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.