





Two Messengers

Eastside Church of Christ
VBS, 2021: Lesson Five

Parallels

- **Spain**

- Jonah seeks to run away to Spain to avoid God's command (1:3)
- Paul seeks to visit Spain to bring God's command (Romans 15:24)

- **Ship and Storm**

- Both crews throw off items to protect ship
- Captains offer striking contrast
- Jonah saves lives by leaving ship; Paul by keeping everyone onboard

- **Message**

- Both men are charged with taking message to the Gentiles

God is Merciful



God is Merciful

- Both men initially resist the message of God
 - Jonah resists by seeking to run away
 - Saul rebels and punishes believers

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But Saul was **ravaging** the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison – Acts 8:1-3



God is Merciful

- Both men initially resist the message of God
- God gives both men time to think it over
 - Jonah: Three days and nights in the belly of a fish
 - Provokes temporary change of heart
 - Saul: Like Jonah, receives direct message from God



And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do/And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank/And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized

God's Message

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God's Message

Time to Think

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God's Message

Time to Think

Salvation in Water

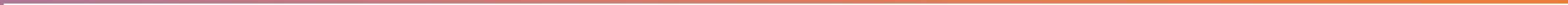
God is Merciful

- What is my view of God's mercy?
 - God may give me a "time out" to think things over
 - Access to this mercy requires "underwater journey"

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance – II Peter 3:9



Into All The World



Into All The World

- Both men commanded to carry God's message to Gentiles
 - Unusual command for Old Testament prophet
 - Paul told Gentiles would be his focus
- Command implemented very differently
 - Jonah spoke 5 Hebrew words
 - Paul preached and wrote widely

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel – Acts 9:15



And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”” And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region

-- Acts 13:46-49

Into All The World

- Their attitudes were vastly different
 - Jonah was angered by his success (4:2)
 - Paul longed to bring many to the Lord

But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us – 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8



Into All The World

- Their attitudes were vastly different
 - What caused this difference?
 - Jonah did not view Jew's enemies as worthy of salvation
 - Paul knew his citizenship lay elsewhere

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ – Philippians 3:20



Into All The World

- These men give us glimpses into our own heart
 - Racism is defeated by seeing all as in need of salvation
 - Respect for command to love one's enemies is essential



Neither Story Ends With Closure

And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle? (4:11)

Paul likely is given a death sentence, with his life ended for preaching the message he once despised (though we do know how the story ended – II Timothy 4:7-8)

How Will My Story End?