



Sermon
Rev. Lang Yang

“Saved In The Storm”

First Wednesday In Lent
St. Michaels Lutheran Church
3-8-17

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Jonah 1:15 “So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.” (ESV) This is the word of God. (Cross reference – Matthew 8:23-27)

Illustration “Christian and Non-Christian” (Show Barna Survey)

RESULTS OF A BARNA SURVEY:

Among Christians:

- 61% knew that Jonah is a book of the Bible
- 27% said it is not,
- 12% had

Among non-Chr

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- 27% said
- 34% wer

RESULTS OF A BARNA SURVEY:

Among Christians:

- **61% knew that Jonah is a book of the Bible**
- **27% said it is not,**
- **12% had no idea.**

Among non-Christians in the survey:

- **29% knew that the Book of Jonah could be found in the Bible**
- **27% said it could not,**
- **34% were not sure.**

I. The Perfect Storm' Sometimes Hits Our Lives (Show Andrea Gail)



When the *Andrea Gail* left Gloucester Harbor in Massachusetts on September 20, 1991, and headed into the North Atlantic, no one could have known that this fishing boat would never be seen again. Only a bit of debris ever turned up, and the six crew members vanished forever. In his book *The Perfect Storm*, author Sebastian Junger immortalized the fate of *the Andrea Gail*. A film followed, but the real star of the book and the movie was the storm itself—a terrifying, relentless oppressor born of fierce wind and mountainous waves. No wonder meteorologists called it “the perfect storm.”

(1991 perfect storm)



Three deadly elements came together in October of 1991: a front moving from Canada toward New England; a high pressure system building over Canada's east coast; and the dying remnants of Hurricane Grace, churning along the eastern seaboard of the United States. Strong weather was coming from three of the four points on the compass, all of it converging on the little *Andrea Gail*. (Show Hannah)



On their own, warm air, cold air, and moist air are hardly noticeable. But when wind patterns force them together the result can be lethal. The last radio transmission of Billy Tyne, the captain of the fishing boat, came at 6:00 P.M. on October 28, 1991. He reported his coordinates to the captain of his sister ship, the *Hannah Boden*, saying, “She's comin' on, boys, and she's comin' on strong.” (Show the Perfect storm)



The book and movie brought the term “perfect storm” into common usage, but the concept is as old as humanity. People have always had to deal with the convergence of multiple rough circumstances. So much can go wrong so quickly that we shake our heads and say, “When it rains, it pours.”

The book of Jonah is Narrative History and a Prophetic Oracle. The prophet Jonah wrote it approximately 785-760 B.C. (Show Jonah can't run from God)



before Assyria conquered Israel's Northern Kingdom. Key personalities include Jonah, the captain and the ship's crew and the people of Nineveh. The purpose of this book is to show that God is a merciful and gracious God. Although the wicked city of Nineveh deserved to be crushed immediately, God was patient towards them. A reluctant prophet, Jonah originally ran from God before delivering a message of repentance to the nation of Nineveh.

God directed Jonah to go to Nineveh however; Jonah disobeyed, boarded a ship and headed for Tarshish. The sailors of the ship became concerned because of the great storm that brewed and Jonah explained that God was bringing judgment upon him.

Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, have you ever been disobedient to the Lord's called to go and proclaim His salvation to others? (Show assorted pictures)



I remember clearly that when I was in the 10th grade I wanted to be a Police Officer. And when I finish High School I heard the Lord's called for me to go into the ministry. I refused and ran away, by going to college and became a Deputy Sheriff. When I finish my Bachelor Degree, I heard the Lord's called again that I should go into the ministry. (Show assorted pictures)



I refused and ran away by becoming an investigator and later operated a Chinese Restaurant of being the owner and a cook for the restaurant. Then came in 2004, I heard the Lord's called the third time, and I left the restaurant and become a servant of Christ. It took 17 years later, that I could not run away any longer, so in a sense, I'm kind say like the prophet Isaiah said, "Here am I send me." (Isaiah 6:8)

II. Jonah refuse to go to Nineveh, because he didn't want the people to be save. (Show map Tarshish)



Because of their evil deed and instead of going East to Nineveh, Jonah went West to Tarshish. But during his trip on a ship "the Lord sent a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up." (Jonah 1:4). It doesn't matter what the crew did by unloading the ship to lighten up the storm still brewing stronger and stronger. (Show Jonah sleeping)



What did Jonah do when all of this happen above deck? Jonah was sleeping and ignoring to what is happening. So the captain went down and asked Jonah to pray to his God to save them so that they may not perish into the sea. Everyone's else has already pray to their own god but nothing seem to work. (Jonah 1:6)

So the crew cast lots to see whose may has done an evil thing that the storm continue to barge at them without ceasing. (Show casting lots for Jonah)



When they cast the lots and it fell on Jonah. (Jonah 1:7) Jonah was questions and Jonah answer them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." 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) (Show raging storm)



Have you ever admitted to your wrong doing? Most people would not admitted to anything if their life depend on it. When Jonah realize that if he did not do what God's is sending him to do, the ship and crew will definitely perish. So what did Jonah do? 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 1:12) Even with Jonah request of the sailor to throw him overboard, the sailor did not want to do that. *"They continue to rowed hard and try to get back to the dry land, but the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them."* (Jonah 1:13) (Show pastor preaching)

III. Their was a story about a father saving his son friend instead of his own son in the midst of a raging storm.



After a few of the usual Sunday evening hymns, the church's Pastor slowly stood up, walked over to the pulpit and before he gave his sermon for the evening, briefly introduced a guest Minister who was in the service that evening. In the introduction, the Pastor told the congregation that the guest Minister was one of his dearest childhood friends and that he wanted him to have a few moments to greet the church and share whatever he felt would be appropriate for the service. With that, the elderly gentleman stepped up to the pulpit and began to speak. (Show elderly pastor preaching)



"A father, and his son, and a friend of his son were sailing off the Pacific coast," he began... " when a fast storm blocked any attempt to get back to the shore. The waves were so high, even though the father was an experienced sailor, he could not keep the boat upright and the three were swept into the ocean as the boat capsized." The old man hesitated for a moment, making eye contact with two teenagers who were, for the first time since the service began, looking somewhat interested in his story. The aged minister continued with his story..." Grabbing a rescue line, the father had to make the most excruciating decision of his life: to which boy would he throw the end of the life line? He

had only seconds to make the decision. The father knew that his son was a Christian and he also knew that his son's friend was not. The agony of his decision could not be matched by the torrent of waves.

As the father yelled out 'I Love You, Son!' he threw out the life line to his son's friend. By the time the father had pulled the friend back to the capsized boat his son had disappeared beneath the raging swells into the black night. His body was never recovered," the old man said sadly. (Teenage listening to sermon)



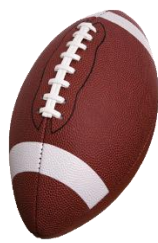
By this time, the two teenagers were sitting up straight in the pew, anxiously waiting for the next words to come out of the old Minister's mouth. "The father," he continued, "knew his son would step into eternity with Jesus and he could not bear the thought of his son's friend stepping into an eternity without Jesus. Therefore, he sacrificed his son to save the son's friend. How great is the love of God that he should do the same for us? Our Heavenly Father sacrificed His only begotten Son so that we could be saved. I urge you to accept His offer to rescue you and take hold of the life line He is throwing out to you in this service." (Show pastor preaching)



With that, the old man turned and sat back down in his chair as silence filled the room. The Pastor again walked slowly to the pulpit and delivered a brief sermon with an invitation at the end. However, no one responded to the appeal. But, within moments after the service ended, the teenage were at the old man's side. "That was a nice story," politely stated one of the teenage, "but, I don't think it was very realistic for a father to give up his only son's life in hopes that the other would become a Christian." "Well, you've got a point there," the old man replied, glancing down at his worn Bible. As a big

smile broadened his narrow face, he looked up again at the boys and said, "It sure isn't very realistic, is it? But, I'm here today to tell you this story gives me a glimpse of what it must have been like for God to give up His only Son for me. You see... I was that father, and your Pastor is my son's friend."

When time is desperate, we wanted to be save. (Show Soccer, Tennis, Football)



Three athlete are about to be executed. One is a soccer player, one is a tennis player, and the third is a football player; The guard brings the soccer player forward, the executioner asked if he has any last requests. He says “No,” and the executioner shouts, “Ready!... Aim!... Suddenly the soccer player yells, “**EARTHQUAKE!**” Everyone is startle and looks around. And he escapes.

The guard brings the tennis player forward and the executioner asks if he has any last request. He says “No,” and the executioner shouts, “Ready!... Aim!... Suddenly the tennis player yells, “**TORNADO!**” Everyone is startle and looks around. And he escapes. By now the tall, blond-headed football player has it all figured out. The guard brings him forward and the execution asks if he has any last request. He says “No,” and the executioner shouts, “Ready!... Aim!... Suddenly the football player yells, “**FIRE!**” Well you know what happen. To all the tall, blond-headed football players in our midst, I apologize. (Quote from the sign of Jonah – Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing)

But the truth is, there are times when we have all wanted to escape, and in doing so do everything wrong. When the man finally realized that if they did not do what Jonah had asked them to do of throwing Jonah to the sea them they all will die. (Show Jonah thrown into the sea)



“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.” So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.” (Jonah 1:14-16)

(Show Jonah thrown into the sea and the big fish)



The sailors with different religion and different god, and after throwing Jonah to the sea, the sea cease from its raging. They all believe in the Lord and made a vows that the Lord is the true God. He control the sea, land, and everything in it. The sailor was saved. After Jonah was thrown into the sea, God sent a big fish to swallow up Jonah and Jonah was save from drowning.

(Show 2 Corinthians 5:21)

Jonah sacrifice for the sailors is similar to Jesus sacrifice for us. St. Paul writes, “*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*” (2 Corinthians 5:21) Both sacrifice are similar to the storm.



The sailor are save and raised to new life by believing the true God. Jesus sacrifice on the cross for the sin of the world brought us new life in Him. God sends storms to awake us to faith, and when we cry out to him He calms the storm through His love for us in Jesus. He is our Savior and through Him we survive the storms of our daily life, even those we bring to ourselves. As the sailor were save and their confession, we should continue to confess our faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ without fear of any storm that come on our way, now or the future because He will save us in the storm. Amen.

No may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep our heart and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Old Testament

Jonah 1:4-16 English Standard Version (ESV)

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.”

Jonah Is Thrown into the Sea

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.

Gospel

Matthew 8:23-27 English Standard Version (ESV)

Jesus Calms a Storm

²³ And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. ²⁴ And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. ²⁵ And they went and woke him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing.” ²⁶ And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. ²⁷ And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”