

The title of this morning's sermon is, "*The Christ in Jonah – Part I.*"

On Sunday mornings we're working our way through Luke's Gospel verse-by-verse and we find ourselves at **Luke 8:22**.

Every few years I think it's good to remind you of something, and I want to begin w/ a lesson that gives you that reminder...

LESSON 1: THE OLD TESTAMENT IS ABOUT JESUS

Listen to these verses discussing the Old Testament being about Jesus:

- **Luke 24:27 Beginning at Moses and all the Prophets** (this is a NT way of referring to the OT), [Jesus] expounded to them in all the Scriptures **THE THINGS CONCERNING HIMSELF**.
- **Luke 24:44 [Jesus] said, "All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms CONCERNING ME."**
- When Philip recognized Jesus was the Messiah, he wanted Nathaniel to meet Him: **John 1:45 [he] said, "We have found Him OF WHOM MOSES IN THE LAW, AND ALSO THE PROPHETS, WROTE—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."** Philip understood the OT was about Jesus.
- My personal favorite: in **Heb 10:7** Jesus said, "**Behold, I have come – in the volume of the book IT IS WRITTEN OF ME.**"

You're all reading your bibles throughout the week – hopefully including the OT – and when you read the OT if you don't see Jesus in it, you're making the same mistake the religious leaders made in Jesus' day. Listen to what Jesus said to them...

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life (they thought memorizing the OT would give them eternal life, but Jesus added...); **and these are they which testify of Me.** ⁴⁰ **But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.**

Jesus made the point that no matter how much of the OT they had memorized, if they didn't have Jesus they didn't have anything. If they didn't find Christ through the Scriptures, they missed out on eternal life.

So here's what I'd say:

- If you learned everything the OT could teach...
- If you could recount every story...
- If you memorized countless verses...

But you don't know Christ through the Scripture, it hasn't benefited you at all either, b/c you'd also miss out on eternal life.

Matt 11:13 All the prophets and the law (again, a NT way of referring to the OT) **prophesied until John [the Baptist].**

It says **until John** b/c the law and prophets were talking about Jesus throughout the OT, but when John came on the scene as Jesus' forerunner, he was able to say: **John 1:29 and 1:36 "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"**

He was able to point right at Jesus and say, *"This is the Messiah the OT was talking about!"*

An obvious question is, "How was the OT about Jesus? How was Jesus contained in the OT?"

First, there were lots of prophecies about Jesus.

Second, Jesus was revealed through what's called types – or **shadows** – that prefigured Him...

- **Heb 10:1** The Law (referring to the OT) was only **A SHADOW** of the good things to come not the **REALITIES** themselves. The realities are found in Christ!
- **Col 2:16-17** A festival or a new moon or Sabbaths...are **A SHADOW** of things to come, but the **SUBSTANCE** is of Christ.

There are a number of reasons **shadows** are a perfect way to describe types of Christ in the OT:

1. First, shadows give you an outline or idea of what something looks like w/o completely revealing the object...like these types of Christ in the OT give you an idea what Christ looks like w/o completely revealing Him.
2. Second, when you see a shadow, you know there must be something casting the shadow...there must be some **substance** or **reality** behind the shadow, and that's Christ.
 - In other words, you never look at a shadow and think it's the real thing: you don't see the shadow of a tree or car and think it's a tree or car.
 - Shadows have no real substance or material themselves; they're not the reality.
 - In the language of **Heb 10:1** the **reality** is found in Christ.
 - In the language of **Col 2:17** the **substance** is found in Christ.

Many of the types and shadows of Christ in the OT are identified for us in the NT. For example:

- Jesus compared Himself with the Bronze Serpent: **John 3:14** **"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up."**
- Jesus compared Himself w/ the manna: **John 6:32-33** **"Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, My Father gives you the true bread from heaven (referring to Himself). For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."**
- **Rom 5:12-21** and **1 Cor 15:21-22** identify Adam as a type of Christ...Jesus is called the Second Adam.
- **1 Cor 5:7** says Jesus was the true and greater **Passover Lamb**.
- In **1 Cor 10:4** says Jesus was the rock in the wilderness that provided Israel with water.
- **Heb 3 and 4** says the Sabbath is only a picture of the true and greater rest that's found in Christ: **Matt 11:28** [Jesus said], **"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.** This rest Jesus offered is superior to the rest found through the Sabbath.

- My personal favorite again: When the veil in the temple was torn, it revealed the access we were given to God. The veil was actually a picture of Christ's body that when "torn" on the cross gave us access to God:
 - That's why the tearing of the veil was one of the miracles accompanying Christ's death: **Matt 27:51 The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.**
 - Just so you don't think this is my opinion: **Heb 10:20 [We have] a new and living way [to God] which [Jesus] consecrated for us, through the veil, [WHICH] IS, HIS FLESH.**

Now we're going to pause for a moment b/c I need the children to do something...

I need all the children to have a piece of paper and something to write with. You don't need a lot of paper. Just enough paper to write one name.

I'm going to tell you one of the most famous accounts in all of Scripture. Most of you children have probably already heard this story taught a few times.

I'm going to share the account w/ you, and then ask you a simple question at the end. Everyone have a paper and something to write with?

A group of men set out on a boat. While they were traveling one of them headed below to sleep. They encountered a huge storm that threatened to drown everyone on board. While the storm was taking place – unbelievably – the man remained sleeping below! The other men on board were terrified, so they woke the sleeping individual to get his help. Soon after that the storm was calmed and the lives of the men on board were spared! As a result they all expressed a great fear they felt for the Lord.

Now here's the question: what is the name of the individual who was sleeping in the bottom of the ship?

Now raise your hand if you wrote:

- Nebuchadnezzar
- Mephibosheth
- Noah...you're closer! There was a boat, water, and I'm sure he slept at times.

Raise your hand if you said "Jim Donald" or "Dave Zumstein." That would be wrong, b/c they doesn't sleep in boats. They sleep in the foyer.

Raise your hand if you put Jesus. Raise your hand if you put Jonah. Raise your hand if you put Jonah and Jesus. You cheated. I told you to put one name 😊.

Now here's something interesting...

Although there were all the types of Christ that I mentioned earlier – and plenty of other ones – as far as I know there’s only one individual who served – not just as a type or shadow or Christ – but as an actual **sign**...

Matt 12:39 But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

This is one reason I think Jonah is the only **sign**, b/c Jesus said **no sign will be given except Jonah**. He said there was no other **sign**!

The point is, Jesus clearly established the typology between Himself and Jonah. Maybe it’s not even typology. Maybe I should say “sign-ology.”

If you’re familiar w/ the context of these verses, Jesus was facing very strong rejection and hostility from the religious leaders. They asked Him for a sign and He literally hung all of His ministry and credibility on this one man! He didn’t mention Noah, or Abraham, or David. He mentioned Jonah. Think of how important that makes Jonah!

So we’re going to do something different this morning and next Sunday that I’ve never done in a sermon before: we’re going to finish before noon!

JUST KIDDING! All you kids got excited for no reason. All you kids and Dan and Martin.

We’re going to be in two books at the same time. We’re going to be in Luke and Jonah. I enjoy showing you the relationship between the Old and New Testaments and I see this as a tremendous opportunity to do that.

So please open your bible to **Luke 8** and **Jonah 1**. Jonah isn’t the easiest book in your bible to find, so you might look at the Table of Contents in the beginning to find the page number.

TRANSITION TO JONAH 1

Two notes before we begin looking at the verses:

1. First, I’ll read the verses in Jonah, and then the corresponding verses in Luke.
2. Second, we’ll study the verses in Luke, but we’re going to move through the verses in Jonah pretty quickly since Luke is the book we’re studying.

I want to make the typology between Jesus and Jonah clear, and this brings us to the first part of Lesson 2...

LESSON 2: JESUS AND JONAH BOTH (PART 1) LEFT JEWISH TERRITORY FOR GENTILE TERRITORY.

Jonah 1:1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.”

Luke 8:22 Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side of the lake.” And they launched out.

Jesus and His disciples were on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee in Capernaum and they headed to the Gadarenes. We’ll study this place in more detail in the future, b/c it’s where Jesus healed the demon possessed man in the verses right after this account.

This would be about a five-to-eight mile boat trip. Traveling by boat was fairly common, especially for many of Jesus’ disciples who were fishermen. So this began as a very ordinary and mundane trip, but it definitely didn’t remain that way!

Here’s what you need to know in terms of establishing the typology between Jesus and Jonah...

- Jesus set out across the sea, and in the process he left Jewish territory and headed to Gentile territory.
- Jonah set out across the sea, and in the process he left Jewish territory and headed to Gentile territory.

But here’s one important point about types...

Types never live up to the **substance** or **reality** that’s found in Christ. Jesus is always true and greater. The type always falls short. In this example:

- Jesus headed out in obedience to God the Father.
- Jonah headed out in disobedience to God the Father.

The next part of Lesson 2...

LESSON 2: JESUS AND JONAH BOTH (PART II) EXPERIENCED A TERRIBLE STORM.

Jonah 1:3 But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. 4 But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.

Luke 8:23 But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling *with water*, and were in jeopardy.

The descriptions of the storms are almost identical!

The Sea of Galilee is about 690 feet below sea level and surrounded by hills. To the north is Mount Hermon, which rises 9,200 feet above sea level. As a result it experienced very strong winds that could be funneled through the gorges into the valley. This caused extremely sudden and violent storms. The word **windstorm** can also mean “whirlwind.” So it’s possible the storm was so severe it took on the properties of a hurricane.

At the end of **verse 23** look at the words **were in jeopardy**. Other translations say they were in **real danger** or **great danger**.

Since we know how the account goes – that they weren't really in any danger b/c Jesus was w/ them – why does Luke write this?

The answer is Luke is telling the account from the perspective of the disciples. I mention this b/c the disciples might look cowardly, but the truth is that it was a terrifying situation:

- The parallel account in **Matt 8:24** says **the boat was covered with the waves**.
- **Mark 4:37** **the waves beat INTO the boat, so that it was already filling**.

In **Jonah 1:4** it says **the ship was about to be broken up**.

So picture this...

In both accounts, the storms are throwing the ships around like they're little toys. The wind is causing huge waves that are crashing over the sides of the ship. Mark says the boat was **filling with water**. From a human point of view, it looked like they were all about to drown!

It was terrifying for all the men aboard...except for two of them. And this brings us to the next part of Lesson 2...

LESSON 2: JESUS AND JONAH BOTH (PART III) SLEPT DURING THE STORM.

Jonah 1:5 Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that *was* in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, AND WAS FAST ASLEEP.

This is the last verse we'll look at in Jonah, so you don't have to keep this section marked.

If you look back at the beginning of **Luke 8:23** it says...

Luke 8:23a But as they sailed He (Jesus) fell asleep.

Despite how terrified the disciples were, Jesus is the exact opposite. He's so NOT afraid He was able to sleep. This is almost like the other miracle in the account: Jonah and Jesus could sleep in storms like this!

This reveals how exhausted Jesus was. If you remember last week's sermon, we looked at some verses in **Mark** that stated Jesus wasn't even able to eat, say nothing about sleep:

- His earthly ministry was unbelievably tiring.
- Nobody has ever been as busy as Jesus was.
- Nobody has ever served God the Father as intensely as God the Son.

And this is one of the best places in Scripture to demonstrate that.

This sermon isn't going to have as much application as most, but there is still some application here that I want to share...

Jesus' miracles had a duality to them:

- There was a physical reality that applied to the people of the day. There were people who wanted to be healed – or they wanted help through the storms – and those people were physically healed or the storms were physically calmed.
- There's also a spiritual reality to Jesus' miracles that apply to us today as we read the Gospels.

It's important to understand this or else these accounts look like they don't have much – if any – application for us. I can't read the account in **Jonah 1** or **Luke 8** and tell you, "If you're in a physical storm, just call out to the Lord for help and He'll calm the storm." That's not the application.

The fact is most of Jesus' miracles don't have much – if any - physical application for us...

- When Jesus healed blindness, that's not supposed to make us think He heals all physical blindness.
- When Jesus healed deafness or lameness, that's not supposed to make us think Jesus heals everyone who's deaf or lame.
- When Jesus healed leprosy, that's not supposed to make us think Jesus heals every skin condition.
- When He raised people from the dead, that's not supposed to make us think He'll raise our loved ones from the dead.

The point is we can't expect Jesus to physically perform the miracles for us that He physically performed for people during His earthly ministry:

- This is what some people think and even some churches teach, and this is one reason their theology is so bad.
- This is why some of these people end up so discouraged and angry at God...when He doesn't do all these things physically for them that some pastor told them He would do.

But there is spiritual application in all of this for us:

- Jesus wants to heal our spiritual blindness...
- Jesus wants to heal our spiritual deafness and allows us to understand spiritual truths...
- Jesus wants to heal our spiritual lameness so we can walk w/ God: **Rom 6:4 just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**
- Jesus wants to cleanse us of our spiritual leprosy, or sin.

And if we look at this account through this spiritual lens, there's application for us...

Luke 8:22-25 isn't teaching us about the physical storms we face in this life. But it is teaching us some truths about the spiritual storms – or trials – we experience in this life...and this brings us to Lesson 3...

LESSON 3: HAVING JESUS IN THE BOAT WITH YOU DOESN'T MEAN HE (PART I) STOPS ALL THE STORMS.

Having Jesus w/ them didn't stop this storm, and having Jesus in your life won't stop all the storms.

Consider these verses:

- **James 1:2** Count it all joy **WHEN** – not if – you fall into various trials.
- **Acts 14:22** Paul [said], “We **MUST** through **MANY TRIBULATIONS** enter the kingdom of God.” There are going to be many trials on our way to heaven.
- **1 Thes 3:3** No one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that **WE ARE APPOINTED TO THIS**. We're appointed to experience trials.
- **1 Peter 4:12** Do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, **AS THOUGH SOME STRANGE THING HAPPENED TO YOU.**”
- **John 16:33** In the world **YOU WILL HAVE** tribulation.

Sometimes we think if we just do what's right, bad things won't happen to us.

But in this account, they experienced the storm **BECAUSE** they obeyed Jesus.

- Sometimes we think trials – or storms – come b/c we're **DISOBEDIENT**, but the disciples experienced this storm b/c they were **OBEDIENT**.
- Sometimes we think if we do what God wants then nothing bad will happen.

That's not true!

Listen to this...

In the Parable of the Two Builders, there's a builder who builds on a strong foundation, and another builder who doesn't. The idea is one obeyed God, but the other didn't.

And here's what you need to know: they both experienced the exact same storms. For both builders it says in **Matt 7:25** for the wise builder and in **Matt 7:27** for the foolish builder: **the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house.**

Here's the point...

Scripture is overwhelmingly clear that we're going to experience trials in this life, whether we have Jesus in the boat w/ us or not!

But one of the other points of this account is Jesus can be trusted in the storms of life. A relationship w/ Christ won't keep us from the storms, but we can trust Christ while we're going through the storms.

Let me show you another interesting detail about this account that doesn't come out as well in Luke. Please turn to **Mark 4:38**. We won't turn back to Luke.

Mark 4:38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

Sometimes I'm surprised by the details Scripture provides and this is one of those times w/ Mark mentioning Jesus using a **pillow**.

What I really want you to notice is the way they criticized Jesus. When I was going over my sermon w/ Katie she said, *"The disciples remind me of the way a wife would talk to her husband."*

- *We're about to perish. Don't you even care?*
- *Pull over and get some gas!*

I have to tell you when I read this verse I am very encouraged! When they said, **"Why don't you care?"** I think these words perfectly capture how we feel when we're going through storms! We're tempted to say these exact same words to the Lord:

- *Why don't you care?*
- *How can you let this happen?*
- *I thought you loved me?*

We feel like saying, *"Are you asleep? Do you see what's happening?"*

And this brings us to the next part of Lesson 3...

LESSON 3: HAVING JESUS IN THE BOAT WITH YOU DOESN'T MEAN HE (PART II) DOESN'T CARE.

The fact that Jesus was sleeping didn't indicate a lack of concern for the disciples. Here are two things we can learn from this account:

- Having Jesus w/ you doesn't mean you'll avoid the storms of life,
- Having Jesus w/ you doesn't mean He doesn't care when you experience the storms of life.

So here's what was acceptable:

- It was acceptable for the disciples to be afraid.
- It was acceptable for them to ask Jesus for help.

But it wasn't acceptable for them to rebuke Jesus like this.

They were wrong in their assessment of the Lord, and we're wrong when we make this same assessment of the Lord.

In fact, one very interesting aspect of this account that truly demonstrates the care and concern of Jesus is revealed when we consider how and when He woke up:

- What didn't wake up Jesus? A storm that was so terrible veteran fishermen were afraid for their lives.
- What DID wake Jesus up? The voices of those same fishermen crying to Him for help.

It's comforting to know that an outcry of human distress can awaken Jesus when even a violent storm did not.

Listen to these verses that discuss us going through trials – or storms – but encouraging us not to be afraid:

- **Psa 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I WILL FEAR NO EVIL;**
For You *are* with me (You are in the boat with me you might say);
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
- **Psa 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; WHOM SHALL I FEAR?**
The LORD *is* the strength of my life;
OF WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID?
- **Psa 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.**
² Therefore WE WILL NOT FEAR,
Even though the earth be removed,
And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;
³ Though its waters roar *and* be troubled,
Though the mountains shake with its swelling.

The point is this:

- We're going to face storms in our lives even though Jesus is w/ us.
- When we face these storms, it's not a reflection of His love for us.

What I'd like to do now is spend a moment checking in w/ the fathers regarding their family worship. I haven't asked this in a while, so let me ask you now:

- How is your family worship going?
- Are you leading your family in prayer?
- Are you reading the Word as a family?

Remember this is one of the greatest responsibilities God has give us as fathers and husbands:

- There's little we can do in our lives that remotely compares to the spiritual leadership of our homes.
- What I do behind the pulpit is important, but what I do in my home is even more important.

Each week Pastor Doug prepares the Family Worship Guide so you can gather your family together around God's Word!

And this week I want to give you a homework assignment to engage in as a family...

Next Sunday we'll look at the rest of **Luke 8:24** and **Luke 8:25**. We'll also pick up at **Jonah 1:6**. As a family, read **Jonah 1:6** through the end of **Jonah 2** and look for the parallels with Jesus.

Then we'll come back next Sunday and add on to Lesson 2. Okay?

Let's pray.