



When Storms Hit

Date: Sunday 5th July

Speaker: Andrew McNeil

Key Verses: Jonah 1:4-16

Talk Summary:

When we come to the Bible we read the bible but we also have to let the bible read us.

The problem is that Jonah wants a God of his own making. A God who judges Jonah's enemies and blesses him and his own people. We can do the same.

1 Storms (v4)

a. God, us, life and fallen world

- The bible doesn't say that every difficulty is the result of sin but it does teach that every sin will bring you into difficulty.
- Some storms are because we are in a fallen world.

2 Asleep in the storm (or fear) (v5-6)

a. Wake up

- People who are asleep don't speak. We need to be awake to the concerns of our friends, and neighbours.
- Sometimes we are called to speak Gods word and not be silent.

Why are we silent

- Complacency or afraid
- We don't know what to say.

This story shows us Some people are desperate for deliverance

b. Don't be silent – Speak the truth in love

- 3** *Big storms prompt big questions (v7-9)*
- a. Jonah's heart revealed. What really matters.**
- *Jonah places his race before his faith in his self-identification*
 - *He says he is a worshiper of the lord. But to worship is to obey.*
- 4** *A picture of contrasts. (v12-14)*
- a. Sailors response Jonah's response**
- *Sailors – Wrong beliefs right behaviour*
 - *Jonah – wright beliefs wrong behaviour*
 - *James 2:17 - So then faith that doesn't involve action is phony*
- b. Mercy for Jonah – Mercy for sailors**
- *Mercy for Jonah was a storm*
 - *Mercy for the sailors was salvation*
 - *God's mercy can look different for different people in different circumstances.*
- 5** *Peace in the storm. (v15)*
- a. Type of Christ** – Sacrifices himself for the sailors, to bring peace to the storm.
- b. This points to the ultimate peace giver.** – Jesus sacrificed himself for all humanity that they could have peace with God.
- c. Mark 10:45**
- 6** **Application.**
- Are you in a storm?
 - Are you asleep in the boat – Is God waking you up to speak for him?
 - Maybe you've got the right ideas but no action?
 - Are we OK with God Being God?

Worship

Why not start your time together with a centring prayer exercise, or some musical worship?

o More ideas at bvc.so/sgworship or bvc.so/sgprayer

Word

- What stands out to you from this passage? How are we like Jonah in this story?
- Where do our beliefs and behaviours not match up?
- Are we awake to the needs of others? Is complacency or fear keeping us silent?
- Who have you labelled as unworthy of God's mercy? Is there someone God is asking you to be merciful towards. Forgive someone who's wronged you.

Witness

- If you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict, you? Talk about what this means and pray for each other.

Prophetic words that were shared on Sunday:

You may want to share these with your group and see if any of them resonate with anyone. Then take time to pray for each other.

- Healing
 - o First, a pain in left side of collar bone
 - o pain lower back right hand side

- Pictures/Words

- An opportunity the Lord is giving for a new start after time in/of uncertainty.
- Ephesians - First Love - not just praying for a first love, enthusiasm of our first love, but with the depth or a long faithful relationship, with the Lord - ignite the fires of a first love, but with more depth and a deeper relationship with you Lord. Lead us Holy Spirit
- I can hear the wind and can't feel the wind, but is can see what's happening, in here it's calm. Praying for inner peace and calm, while there are storms and wind blowing and gusting all around us in our lives, society and the world - pray for peace and comfort in our lives, that you God see it and you sit with us in our peace this morning
- Matthew 4v22 - Calling the first disciples - immediately they left their boats and followed him. A moment of decision to follow God in this thing now! Then all of their lives were completely changed and unfolded! An opportunity for those to who haven't yet to say "yes" to Jesus - a Kairos (significant) moment.
- Standing in front of full length mirror, we might see ourselves in quite a negative way, body shape, ageing, weary. But then God put His arms around me and said this is not how I see you, I see my child and you have walked with me faithfully and have lived a life well, so don't just look at yourself critically - I never do that when I look at you. Be encouraged to see what God sees, when He looks at you!
- Another word followed that, a flower that had not flowered in a number of years - has started to gain new buds and has been moved to a more visible/prominent position- there is a hope for new fruit and flowering in our lives