

Communion Meditation – Jonah

Jonah 1.11-16 (start v10)

“Jonah is Sacrificed”

May 12th, 2013

v11 ~ “What shall we do to you?”

- The sailors know why the storm has come
- They’d suspected it was supernatural ~ And Jonah confirmed it
- Now they want to know “what will make the storm cease?”
- Their question assumes an answer, “What shall we do to you?”
- They’re not only spectators in this drama ~ they’re vital actors

v12b ~ “.. throw me into the sea .. This great tempest is because of me”

- The sailors again seek answers from Jonah ~ Jonah provides them
- Earlier Jonah had only admitted who he was (v9) ~ Now he admits fault
- The sailors suspected they had to do something to Jonah
- But when Jonah instructs them to throw him overboard, they balk . . .

v13 ~ “Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but ..”

- The sailors do not see beyond death ~ They regard death as the end
- Jonah believes he will die as well ~ But he accepts it (*amused at their effort*)
- Only God can see the future ~ see beyond the storm to the peace to come

God’s Wrath Appeased by Jonah’s Sacrifice (read vss 14-15)

- The sailors reluctantly throw Jonah overboard ~ “the sea ceased from its raging”
- They now fear Jonah’s God far more than the storm
 - v16a ~ “Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly”
 - v16b ~ “and offered a sacrifice to the Lord and took vows”
- These sailors must have told this tale until the day they died

There are obvious corollaries between Jonah and Jesus

They are both human sacrifices of a sort ~ sacrifices that appease the wrath of God

Onlookers to both “deaths” are shocked at the outcome

- The sailors experience an immediate calming of the storm

- (earthquake, veil torn) ~ Centurion said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”