

Communion Meditation – Jonah

Jonah 1.8-10 (read 7 to 10)

“Jonah the Hypocrite”

May 5th, 2013

v8 ~ “Then they said to him . . . Who are you?”

- The sailors ask him 5 questions / Newcomers are often asked such questions
 - He answers only the last one “of what people are you” / “I am a Hebrew”
 - v9 ~ Then he says, “I fear the Lord .. who made the sea and the dry land.”
- Jonah doesn’t answer the questions they asked . . .
 - But he gives them the information they seek . . .

Asking Questions and Giving Answers

- The sailors ask 5 questions: WHOSE – WHAT – WHERE – WHAT – WHAT
- Jonah gives his answer and then they ask one more
 - v10 ~ “Why have you done this?” / This is what they really want to know
 - “What kind of man is so brazen as to offend such a powerful God?”
 - They are somewhat in awe of this man who dares to defy his God

Hypocrisy

- In **Num 32.23** Moses warns eastern tribes about not helping subdue western land
 - Moses told Gad & Reuben, “But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.”
 - “Your sin will find you out.”
 - “Are there more truthful words in all of Scripture?”
 - ///: Magazine in road- Camp Pendleton – best of intentions / vehicle check

Jonah is Being Hypocritical

- Jonah is willfully defying God’s clear direction
- Yet he tells these men, “I fear the Lord.”
- Both of these actions reflect Jonah’s true character / defiance, but fear of God

To a degree we are all hypocrites ~ We do not live up to the standards we espouse
We can lower the standards (many do) ~ Or pretend we meet them (many do)
But the past of honesty and integrity requires that we do neither . . .
We must uphold the standards while confessing our failure to meet them . . . humility