

Anchored – Reflecting God's Merciful Presence

Sermon Notes – Tim Yates

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Teaser:

What does the “sign [parable-story] of Jonah” have to do with the languages of the nations and peoples? Why does this translated phrase 救恩出於主 Jiù ēn chū yú zhǔ partially fulfill the “sign [parable-story] of Jonah”? How does the “sign of Jonah” give us an anchor to show how the Lord is inescapably present with us?

Introduction: Discomfort in cross-cultural language situations

I. What is the sign of Jonah? We could also call it the *parable* of Jonah

Jonah's **true** historical experience taught by Jesus as parabolic symbolism that he fulfills as a first chapter in a continuing true story.

Matthew 12:39-41 But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

- A. JONAH'S PARABLE THEMES: Judgment-to-foreigner-desiring PROPHET facing God's stormy wrath was thrown into a temporary FISH tomb, vomited to land-life to grumpily warn foreigners of God's judgment, foreigners who incredibly believe-repent (sailors and Ninevites), all to teach hard-hearted, ethnocentric Jews about God's mercy.
- B. JESUS' FULFILLED STORY THEMES: CHAPTER 1: GREATEST PROPHET sent to evil, Messiah-rejecting Jews, at the cross thrown in the seas of God's wrath for his people, died and buried for three days, but death vomited him to resurrection life and ascended power at God's right hand CHAPTER 2: who sends a few Spirit-filled Jews to believing-repenting foreigners . . . CONTINUING CHAPTERS: who now sends us foreigners to other foreigners as part of Jesus' continuing fulfillment of the sign of Jonah. As others have been to us, we are *signs of Jonah reflecting God's merciful presence!*

Jonah 1-4 story

II. The sign of Jonah to Jonah and Israel: “I will discipline your anger at my mercy to foreigners” all to teach Jonah and all Israel (by including Jonah in the Old Testament) the lesson than their "salvation belongs to the Lord" (**Jonah 2:9**)

A. Big Wind & Waves, Lot fell on Jonah, Fish swallowed **Jonah 1:1-2:8** and vomited Jonah **Jonah 2:9-10**

B. Plant protected Jonah, then died **Jonah 4:6-9**

Jonah 4:2-3

INSERT YOUTUBE Veggie Tales "Jonah was Prophet" ONLY the segment from 1:00 minute in until 3:10 seconds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qLhAdA5ZXI>

III. The sign of Jonah to the nations: all to show the "salvation [of peoples from every culture and language and nation] belongs to the Lord" (Jonah 2:9)

A. JONAH'S PARABLE THEMES: Judgment-to-foreigner-**despising** PROPHET facing God's stormy wrath was thrown into a temporary FISH tomb, vomited to land-life to grumpily warn foreigners of God's judgment, foreigners who incredibly believe-repent (sailors **Jonah 1:14-16** and Ninevites **Jonah 3:3-10**), all to teach hard-hearted, ethnocentric Jews about God's mercy.

B. JESUS' FULFILLED JONAH'S STORY THEMES: CHAPTER 1: GREATEST PROPHET sent to (mostly) evil, Messiah-rejecting Jews, at the cross thrown in the seas of God's wrath for his people, died and buried for three days, but death vomited him to resurrection life and ascended power at God's right hand **Matt 12:39-41**

C. JESUS' FULFILLED JONAH'S STORY THEMES: CHAPTER 2: Jesus sends a few Spirit-filled Jews to believing-repenting foreigners . . . Saul/Paul and Peter and in **Acts 9:1-18; Galatians 2:9; Acts 10:1-48**, and to us **Romans 10:20**

D. JESUS' FULFILLED JONAH'S STORY THEMES: CONTINUING CHAPTERS . . . Jesus now sends us foreigners to other foreigners as part of Jesus' continuing fulfillment of the sign of Jonah. As others have been to us, we are *signs of Jonah reflecting God's merciful presence!* **2 Corinthians 5:20**

1. Expanding your *oikos*: making room, expecting harvest
a. classmates, neighbors, co-workers, including those not like us who are not easy to talk to, with different languages and cultures, missionaries; Examples: *The Gospel Comes with a House Key* Rosaria Butterfield, learn a new language with Duolingo or Rosetta Stone; help with international students and immigrants (Church World Services **CWS**, Lancaster); thirdmill.org providing free seminary education in 19 languages; Yates family 25 years in East Asia.

Try to get all this on one slide with Bible translation graphic

Evident in Bible translation using Jonah 2:9

ישועתה ליהוה Yeshuatah leYHWH (Hebrew) 500 BC

σωτηρίου τῷ κυρίῳ. [sotiriou to kyrio] (Greek Septuagint) 200 BC

salute Domino (Latin Vulgate) 405 AD

Hilfe ist des HERRN (Luther's German) 1522

sauinge cometh of the lorde (Tyndale's English) 1536

Salvation *is* of the LORD (King James version) 1611

+Ten most important languages of the world based on how many people speak that language

救恩出於主 [Jiù ēn chū yú zhǔ] (Chinese Union) 2 billion

Salvation belongs to the LORD! (ESV) 1.875 billion

¡La salvación viene del SEÑOR! (NVI, Spanish) 750 million

मैं तेरी मन्नते मानूँगा और अपनी मन्नतों को पूरा करूँगा। (ERV-HI, Hindi) 650 million

A salvação vem do SENHOR (NVI-PT, Portuguese) 450 million

Le salut vient de l'Éternel (LSG-French) 449 million

لَأَنَّ الرَّبَّ الْخَلَّاصَ (NAV-Arabic) 305 million

у Господа спасение! (Russian) [у Gospoda spaseniye!] 260 million

Die Rettung kommt von dem Herrn! (SCH-2000, German) 185 million

私の救いは主のみです (Japanese) [Watashi no sukui wa omo nomidesu] 127 million



b. Prayerfully and with guidance of mature believers, to those who have harmed us, or whose ethnicity has mutual dislike or distrust: **Matthew 5:44**

Principles: *The Peacemaker* by Ken Sande; www.rw360.org **Examples:** Family, *Come Back Barbara*; Foreigners, *From Far Formosa* by George MacKay to northern Taiwan in 1873-1905, *The Mosaic Miracle* by Stephen Beck offering quad-lingual worship services in Germany.

c. Jesus now present with us to confirm his promises of mercy in communion, all to show the "salvation [of peoples from every culture and language and nation] belongs to the Lord" (Jonah 2:9)

Suggested discussion questions for small groups/Life groups

1. Who has been the "sign of Jonah" in your life to witness the Lord's merciful presence in salvation?
2. Have you also experienced opportunities to grow through relational forgiveness, even as you have experienced the merciful presence of the Lord, even as we experienced anew during communion on Sunday? (Remember *The Peacemaker* book and rw360.org for resources)
3. As others have been to us, we are *signs of Jonah reflecting God's merciful presence!* Since Jesus now sends us foreigners to other foreigners as part of his continuing fulfillment of the sign of Jonah, where does this sign challenge you to expand your *oikos*, make room, and expect harvest? Is language learning or language teaching a way that you can expand your *oikos*?
4. How is LEFC already participating in the sign of Jonah (give prayerful thanks) and where might the Lord be challenging the church to consider strengthening existing or developing new ministries as the signs of Jonah reflecting God's merciful presence? How might the quad-lingual worship model of *The Mosaic Miracle* book challenge us in Lititz?

Title, Text: Signs of Jonah Reflecting God's Merciful Presence: Matt. 12:39-41; Jonah 1-4

5. Where do families and socio-culture relationships need to experience merciful reconciliation with the Lord and one another that you might be able to contribute to?