

The Storm

When we run away from God, storms are inevitable. Not every storm comes from sin, but every sin leads to a storm. One thing we know for sure, God uses storms to wake us up, grow us and reveal to us what we actually find our identities in. For Jonah, his political identity is the first answer that jumps out of his mouth. He makes a theological confession about the God he believes that is filled with irony and hypocrisy. He's defiant in his rebellion towards God even unto death, and it eventually forces the innocent pagan sailors to throw him overboard.

The storm is an expression of the anger of God towards his rebellious prophet. And once Jonah is hurled in, the wrath of God is satisfied. This is hard to get our heads around, especially as we're so used to hearing about the God of love and grace. But as Timothy Keller says, "to deny God's wrath upon sin not only robs us of a full view of God's holiness and justice but also can diminish our wonder, love, and praise at what it was that Jesus bore for us."

Jesus was thrown into the depth of the storm in order to save us from drowning. The wrath of God completely satisfied by the love of God. Jonah was defiant until the end, and Jesus was faithful to the end.

1. What was the last storm you were in and what did it reveal about your identity or what you place your identity in?
2. Is there any irony or hypocrisy in the way you approach being a Christian?
3. The lyrics from the song 'Come Thou Fount' are "Prone to wander, Lord I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love..." remind us that even if we're not running from God, we're all prone to wandering.

Running. Wandering. Believing. Following. Out of these four options, which describes you and your relationship with God the best?