

## Communion Meditation – Jonah

Jonah 1.5-6 (read 4 to 6)

“Jonah is Shamed”

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### v5a ~ “Then the mariners were afraid”

- Mariners are typically proud & courageous ~ “seasoned sailors”
- But “the ship was about to be broken up” / their courage had failed

### v5b ~ “and every man cried out to his god”

- Sailors are also often an immoral lot (*present company excluded*)
  - Ports for millennia have fueled the sinful lusts of sailors
- But soldiers have foxholes & sailors storms to put the “fear of God” into them
- These men were about to die ~ and they knew it
  - “great wind” / “mighty tempest” / God is pushing the ship to its limits

### v5c ~ “and threw the cargo . . . into the sea”

- The captain makes such a decision / and it is a costly one
- He would only do this as a last resort to save the ship & their lives
  - It seems that their various gods had failed them / “But did these sailors hope?”

### v5d ~ “But Jonah had gone down into . . . and was fast asleep.”

- Why had Jonah “gone down into the lowest parts of the ship”?
- “Have you ever run from God?”
- When you run from God ~ “What exactly are you running towards?”
  - Those who know God know there’s nothing to run towards – only away
- Commentators are puzzled by Jonah sleeping? ~ I’m not . . .
  - I don’t believe Jonah is exhausted because of his trip thus far . . .
  - He’s seeking peace apart from God in the “oblivion of sleep”

### v6 ~ “.. sleeper . . . Arise, call on your God, perhaps .. we may not perish”

- ///: RoTK - Gimli ~ “Well, this is a thing unheard of. An Elf would go underground, where a Dwarf dare not.” ~ Similar irony at work here
  - A heathen sea captain commands Jonah to pray

This table is set in the midst of the storms of life . . .

Are you running from God? / Has God humbled you yet?

Awaken sleeper! Call on your God . . . !