

A Time with Jesus Bible Study

TWCC 10-20-2022

First Reading Jonah 1:1-17a

¹Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, ²"Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me." ³But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord. ⁴But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. ⁶The captain came and said to him, "What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish." ⁷The sailors said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us." So, they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸Then they said to him, "Tell us why this calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" ⁹"I am a Hebrew," he replied. "I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." ¹⁰Then the men were even more afraid, and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them so. ¹¹Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quieten down for us?" For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. ¹²He said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quieten down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you." ¹³Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. ¹⁴Then they cried out to the Lord, "Please, O Lord, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man's life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you." ¹⁵So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶Then the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. ¹⁷But the Lord provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah;

Question 1 –

- Why Jonah?
- Why the urgency?
- Why did Jonah do the opposite of what God asked him?
- Why in the midst of a call, do people turn and go the opposite way God has ask?

Question 2 - ¹¹Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quieten down for us?" For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. ¹²He said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quieten down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you."

- Why did Jonah volunteer to be thrown overboard?
- What does it take for us to admit our running from God?

Psalm 66

- ¹ Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
² sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.
³ Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!
Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.
⁴ All the earth worships you;
they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name. *Selah*
- ⁵ Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.
⁶ He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.
There we rejoiced in him,
⁷ who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations —
let the rebellious not exalt themselves. *Selah*
- ⁸ Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,
⁹ who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.
¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.
¹¹ You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;
¹² you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.
- ¹³ I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows,
¹⁴ those that my lips uttered, and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
¹⁵ I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats. *Selah*
¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.
¹⁷ I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.
¹⁸ If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.
¹⁹ But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.
- ²⁰ Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me.

Question 1 –

- Are verse 1-7 an invitation or a command?
- What is the difference between the two in this context?

Question 2 – I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows,
¹⁴ those that my lips uttered, and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

¹⁵ I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

- This response seems to be an example of what?
- What are your responses an example of?
- Are our responses to God seen by others? If yes, what difference do they and can they make?

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 10:15-24

¹⁵I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. ¹⁸Consider the people of Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices partners in the altar? ¹⁹What do I imply then? That food sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be partners with demons. ²¹You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. ²²Or are we provoking the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

²³"All things are lawful," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. ²⁴Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other.

Question 1 – ¹⁵I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

- In these three verses there is a set up, which is verse 15. What might the set up mean in relationship to the following two verses?

Question 2 - ²³"All things are lawful," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. ²⁴Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other.

- What might Paul be sharing here that has meaning and significance to us today?

Gospel Reading Matthew 18:15-20

¹⁵"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Question 1 – If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone.

- Have you done this before?
- How was it received?

If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.

⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

- Have you done this before or witnessed this before?
- How was it received?

¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.

- Have you witness this done before?
- How was it received?

Question 2 - ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

These verses seem to be about relationships and about justice. How do our prayers have power in our relationships and in our ability to affect communion, social, and spiritual justice?