

A Merciful Storm (Jonah 1:4-7)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. This past October's "Merciful Ice Storm"
 - B. A recap of the events of the first three verses which set up what was to come: a *dark providence* or *merciful storm* in the life of Jonah
 - C. Charting our course for the sermon and reading the text
- II. **God hurls a merciful storm at Jonah (Jonah 1:4-6)**
 - A. Jonah is at *ease*, but the stage is set for his *chastening*
 1. the storm (Jonah 1:4)
 - a. the Lord initiated it
 - b. He sent it with a specific merciful intent
 - c. God's control of the wind and waves is a consistent theme
(Ex 10:13-19, 14:21-29, Num 11:31, **Job 26:12**,
Ps 89:9, **107:25,29**, 135:7, Is 50:2, Jer 49:32-36,
Amos 4:13, Nah 1:4, **Mark 4:37-39**)
 - d. is it fair to subject many other 'innocent parties' to a storm sent because of the sin of one man – Jonah's?
 - 1) there are no innocent parties (Rom 3:10)
 - 2) there is no such thing as chance (Prov 16:33)
 - e. it was a merciful storm accomplishing God's good purpose!
 2. the terror of the Gentile mariners (Jonah 1:5)
 - a. insincere superstitious prayers (Ps 78:34-37)
 - b. meanwhile Jonah sinks into calloused indifference, even while he lives with a artificial peace
 - d. be careful of being led by "peace in your heart" especially as you refuse to be corrected by God's Word (Ez 14:4-5)
 - B. The end of Jonah's *ease*
 1. a pagan captain's rebuke of God's prophet (Jonah 1:6)
 - a. Numbers 32:23 "*be sure your sin will find you out*"
- III. **The storm's work is done – Jonah's sin is exposed (Jonah 1:7)**
 - A. God's sovereign revelation though pagan superstition
 - B. What about the sins of the pagan mariners? Did they not merit judgment? Why did they not think so?
 1. A low view of sin
 2. Storms are a test of your understanding of the severity of your sin
 3. Calamity is God's call for me to repent
 - C. Examples of merciful storms
 1. Paul's thorn in the flesh (2 Cor 12:7-10)
 2. The incestuous man in Corinth (1 Cor 5:3-5, 2 Cor 2:5-9)
 3. How God has used merciful storms in our midst
 4. In creation (Gen 1:2)
 5. in the vision of the valley of dry bones (Ez 37:5)
- IV. **The most significant merciful storm**
 - A. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ!