



***JONAH:
THE RELUCTANT PROPHET
OUR STORY TOO?***

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**MOUNT STREET
JESUIT CENTRE**

THE STORY CONTINUES

- **Jonah's angry response**
- **Jonah's death wish**
- **Jonah sulks & waits**
- **The withered tree**
- **God's final challenge**



JONAH'S ANGRY RESPONSE

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, 'O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing.

(Jonah 4:1-2)

GOD & JONAH



- **God shows mercy**
- **Jonah wants justice**
- **No one deserves mercy**
- **The quality of mercy**

MERCY

*Forgive your neighbour the wrong he has done,
and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray.*

*Does anyone harbour anger against another,
and expect healing from the Lord?*

*If someone has no mercy towards another like himself,
can he then seek pardon for his own sins?*

(Sirach 28:2-4)

*I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one
sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous
people who need no repentance.*

(Luke 15:7)

JONAH'S PRIDE


Jonah is preoccupied with:

- **himself,**
- **his reputation in the eyes of others,**
- **his own outlook.**





JONAH'S ATTITUDE IN NT PEOPLE

- **The prodigal son's older brother (Lk 15)**
 - **Jews towards Samaritans & Gentiles
(Jn 4:9; Acts 10, 11)**
 - **The Pharisees towards Jesus eating with
sinners (Mt 9:10-11)**
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JONAH'S DEATH WISH



*And now, O LORD,
please take my life
from me, for it is
better for me to die
than to live.'*

(Jonah 4:3)

JONAH SULKS & WAITS

And the LORD said, ‘Is it right for you to be angry?’ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

(Jonah 4:4-5)



SODOM & GOMORRAH

Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulphur & fire from the LORD out of heaven; & he overthrew those cities, & all the Plain, & all the inhabitants of the cities, & what grew on the ground. But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, & she became a pillar of salt.

Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD; & he looked down towards Sodom & Gomorrah & towards all the land of the Plain, & saw the smoke of the land going up like the smoke of a furnace. (Gen. 19:24-28)

THE WITHERED TREE

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.' (Jonah 4:6-8)

THE WITHERED TREE



- **Jonah is very happy!**
- **God's accomplices**
- **Green Jonah**
- **Jonah's torment**

GOD'S FINAL CHALLENGE

But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the LORD said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

(Jonah 4:9-11)



Paul Murray

A Journey with Jonah: The Spirituality of Bewilderment

We are no longer simply spectators of the Jonah story, but active participants. Each one of us must now respond to the challenge of God's Word, & to the direct call for forgiveness. Here on the open page in front of us – in the utter silence after the question – we are being offered the surprising freedom & opportunity to write out for ourselves as it were, the final paragraph of the book of Jonah.

JONAH HERALDS THE GOSPEL

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you.
(Luke 6:36-38)



GOD'S INDISCRIMINATE MERCY



Jonah questions us:

- **Our identity**
- **Our direction**
- **Our outlook**

OUR TEACHERS

- Nicodemus
- The woman of Samaria
- The mad demoniac
- The clever steward
- The younger son
- The brother
- The child
- The apostles
- Peter
- The condemned thief
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