

2nd Lenten Encounter: Repentance

Read Jonah 3:1-10 and Luke 11:29-32

This is a strange and strong one-liner of Jesus. We demand signs and miracles and the only sign Jesus offers us is the sign of Jonah which is no sign at all, but rather an anti-sign. Quite unsatisfying. It demands that we release ourselves into the belly of darkness before we can know what is essential. It insists that the spiritual journey is more like giving up control than taking control. It says that others will throw us overboard, and we will only get to the right shore by God's grace more than right action on our part.

Faith is the leap into the water, now with the lived experience that there is One who can and will catch you- and lead you where you need to go. Jonah knew what God was doing, and how God does it, and how right God is- only after emerging from the belly of the whale.

He did not have a message to give until after emerging from the belly of the whale. He had to first endure the journey, the darkness, the spitting up on the right shore- all in spite of his best efforts to avoid these very things. Jonah is our symbol of transformation.

Prayer: God of surprising journeys, help me live my life forward, trusting that you are steering the ship. Help me to understand my life backward by seeing and forgiving the many 'signs of Jonah'

3 Questions:

1. Who are prophets of God in my life?
2. Is there something I know I need to repent from?
3. Can I turn to God and ask God' forgiveness and help