

The Storm That Redirects
Storm Series - Part 3
Sermon Notes for August 16, 2026

SERMON CONTENT

1. Series Recap & Introduction

Some storms change our direction so God can fulfill His purpose.

- Week 1: The storm that REVEALS — storms show us what we actually believe (Disciples in the boat, Mark 4)
- Week 2: The storm that REFINES — trials shape us like gold in fire (James 1)
- Week 3 (Today): The storm that REDIRECTS — Big Idea: Some storms change our direction so God can fulfill His purpose.

2. The Storm That Corrects: Jonah's Story

Jonah's problem wasn't a lack of faith in God's power. His problem was he didn't want God to extend mercy to people he'd already decided didn't deserve it.

God didn't discard Jonah after his rebellion. God recommissioned him.

Sometimes the storm you're in isn't God abandoning His plan for your life. It's God insisting on it.

- God calls Jonah to Nineveh; Jonah flees toward Tarshish — the opposite direction
- Jonah runs not from fear of failure, but fear that Nineveh would be shown mercy
- A great storm hits; Jonah sleeps below deck — this is apathy, not peace
- Contrast: Jesus also sleeps in a storm (Mark 4:38) — but His sleep is trust, not avoidance
- The great fish isn't punishment — it's mercy that stops Jonah's downward path
- God recommissions Jonah: same call, second chance

Key Truth: The storm didn't come to destroy Jonah — it came to redirect him.

3. The Storm That's Providential: Paul's Road to Damascus

Jonah was running from obedience. Saul thought he was running toward it. Jonah's storm corrected rebellion. Saul's storm redirected misguided zeal.

What felt like devastation was providence. What looked like a detour was the actual destination.

- Saul is zealous, convinced, and confident he's doing God's will — persecuting the church
- On the road to Damascus, a blinding light stops him cold (Acts 9:3-4)
- Three days blind, no food or water — a kind of death to his old direction
- Unlike Jonah, Saul wasn't running from God — he was running hard in the wrong direction with real passion
- God tells Ananias: Saul is now His "chosen instrument" (Acts 9:15)
- The road that blinded him became the road he'd preach about forever

Key Truth: Some storms don't correct disobedience — they redirect misplaced devotion.

4. Every Storm Invites Surrender

You can go through a storm and come out the other side just as stubborn, just as resistant, just as headed the wrong way as when you went in — if you never surrender.

Sometimes what feels like a setback is actually God's redirection and course correction.

- The storm alone didn't redirect Jonah or Paul — surrender did
- Jonah's turning point: praying inside the fish, "Salvation comes from the Lord"
- Paul's turning point: receiving sight and baptism through Ananias
- You can go through a storm and come out just as stubborn if you never surrender

Bottom Line: Sometimes what feels like a setback is actually God's redirection and course correction.

5. Response: Write & Pray

Take a moment to write down ONE area where you've been resisting God — a Tarshish you're running to, or a Damascus road you're running down with the wrong confidence.

My area of resistance:

Pray: Surrender this to God. Ask Him to reveal whether this storm is correction, providence, or both — and to give you courage to let it redirect you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: *For personal reflection or group discussion*

1. Think of a setback in your life — a job loss, closed door, or delay. Looking back, could it have been a redirection rather than a defeat?
2. Jonah's sleep was avoidance; Jesus' sleep was trust. Are there areas where you've spiritually 'checked out' rather than facing what God is asking of you?
3. Are you more like Jonah (running from something you know God has called you to) or more like Saul (running hard toward something you're sure is right, but may need interruption and redirection)?
4. Why do you think surrender, not just the storm itself, is what actually produces redirection?
5. What is one area of your life right now where you might be mistaking God's redirection for abandonment or failure?

KEY TAKEAWAYS: *Main points to remember and apply*

1. Some storms change our direction so God can fulfill His purpose.
2. The storm didn't come to destroy Jonah — it came to redirect him.
3. Some storms redirect misplaced devotion, not just disobedience.
4. The storm creates the opportunity for redirection; surrender is what takes hold of it.
5. Sometimes what feels like a setback is actually God's redirection and course correction.