



“Learning how NOT to be a Jonah in a Ninevite world”

Sunday, May 21, 2017

A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — *“to obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Samuel 15:22)

Jonah’s Running—His Defiance (Jonah 1)

Introduction:

The book of Jonah is narrative of *rescue*—it is the passionate pursuit of a loving and gracious God. In this narrative, we see God pursuing a prophet, pagan sailors, and the people of Nineveh.

Jonah displays key characteristics that the believer should strive, by God’s grace, to refrain from displaying in their own Christian walk.

In God’s pursuit, we see His mercy. With each person that He is pursuing, we can see differing heart attitudes—different dispositions of rebellion against God.

In this narrative, we see characteristics of our magnificent God on full display as He pursues His wayward prophet.

Warren Wiersbe – The Book of Jonah is about the **will of God** and *how we respond to it*. It’s also about the **love of God** and *how we share it with others*.

I. The clarity of God's Command (v. 1-2)

Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian Empire which would be modern day Iraq. It was Israel's worst enemy at this time.

II. The reality of God's _____ (v. 3)

It is important to see that **Jonah is living as a practical atheist**. He knows the truth about God, but he is living contrary to that truth. He knows that God is everywhere present, but he is living as if he can run from God.

A question that I would like for us to meditate upon is, "**What is your Nineveh?**"

Q: What is the command that is most difficult for you to hear?

Q: What commands of God cause you to panic or feel stressed?

Q: Which commands prompt you to say, "Anything but that Lord!"?

Q: What assignments do you find yourselves digging your heels in and refusing to obey?

Consider Psalm 139

III. The display of God's _____ (v. 4-15)

It is important to keep in mind every aspect of God's actions are rooted in love. He is mercifully pursuing a disobedient child, seeking *to rescue him from his miserable condition of broken fellowship*.

A. The sailor's situation (v. 5-6)

B. The sailor's conclusion (v. 7)

C. The sailor's _____ (v. 8-13)

1. Who are you (v. 8-9)

2. Why have you done this (v. 10)

3. What shall we do (v. 11-13)

D. The sailor's _____ (v. 14-15)

First, notice who they pray too.

Second, notice their fear

Third, notice their recognition of God's right

IV. The Display of God's _____ (v. 16)

God is in control of all things speaking of His **Sovereignty**.

His **providence** speaks of His purpose and His plan to complete that purpose— He allows and/ or directs all things to take place at their exact moment in time.

Proverbs 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof *is* of the LORD.

Again, just as with Jonah, we need to keep in mind that every aspect of God’s actions are rooted in love. He is mercifully pursuing His disobedient creation, seeking to *rescue them from their miserable condition of **dead faith***. They are “*dead in their trespasses and sins,*” separated from a holy and righteous God.

Ephesians 2:4-5 BUT **God, Who** is rich in mercy, for **His** great love wherewith **He** loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with **Christ**, (by grace ye are saved;)

Through no effort of Jonah, God brought about good. In Jonah’s wake, God was leaving a trail of transformed souls.

V. The Display of God’s _____ (v. 17)

Despite Jonah’s defiance against the direct commandment of God, God is still patient with Him, pursuing Him, seeking to rescue him.

Up to this point, Jonah is still unmoved in his rebellion against God. He is still unbroken and unrepentant in his sin.

What is my next step?

 <p>PINE ISLAND BIBLECHURCH</p>	<p>9 Little Brooklyn Rd, Warwick, NY 10990 pastor@PBCNY.com / www.PBCNY.com / John Lashuay, Pastor</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------