

"Get 'im, Big Fish!"

Jonah 1:1-17, Mark 14:17-26.

February 5, 2017

1. Jonah _____ God.

Jonah 1:1-3 ***The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: ² "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." ³ But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.***

(See II Kings 14:25)

2. _____ has disobeyed God.

Mark 14:18-19 ***While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me." ¹⁹ They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely you don't mean me?"***

3. There are _____ for disobeying God.

Jonah 1:4 ***Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up.***

4. Our disobedience impacts _____.

Jonah 1:5a ***All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.***

5. _____ are no indicator of guilt or innocence.
Jonah 1:5b-6 **But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. 6 The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish."**

6. Our _____ impacts others.
Jonah 1:16 **At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to Him.**

7. God gives _____.
Jonah 1:17 **Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.**

Isaiah 55:6-7 **Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call on Him while He is near Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous person forsake his thoughts. Let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.**

II Chronicles 7:14 **"If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land"**

I John 1:8-9 **If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

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- Jonah was already a prophet, a man of God.

II Kings 14:25 ***He (Jeroboam II) was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Dead Sea, in accordance with the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, spoken through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hopher.***

- Why? Maybe he was afraid of the Ninevites.
- ~ Unwillingness to travel. He went toward Tarshish.
- Maybe he wanted a break from prophesying. Spanish Riviera!
- Maybe he didn't want to be polluted in a wicked place like Nineveh
- We find out later it was his patriotism and prejudice, but we don't know that yet.
- Anyway, it doesn't matter.
- There is no good excuse for disobeying God.
- There may be good reasons for disobeying others, but never God.
 - Marry a couple God said not to marry.
 - Stop preaching that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation.
- God said go east. Jonah went west.

- How could Jonah be so stupid? We all know better. Or do we?

2. _____ has disobeyed God.
 Mark 14:18-19 ***While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.” 19 They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, “Surely you don’t mean me?”***

- “I’m not as nervous about going through customs as I thought I’d be, are you?” = “I ain’t skeered. You skeered?” So “Surely you don’t mean me!” means “I know I could do that.” Μητι ἐγώ
 “Is it I?” (ESV) “It isn’t me, is it?” (MSG)
- God said “Go east to Nineveh. Jonah went west to Tarshish.
- God said “Forgive, as I have forgiven you.” Have you held on to a hurt or nursed a grudge?
- God said “You shall not commit adultery” and “Flee immorality.” Have you been sexually pure?
- Jesus said, “If you look on someone lustfully you have committed adultery in your heart.” Have you been lecherous and adulterous in what you look at?
- God said “Bring the full tithe into my storehouse” and Jesus said, “Give, and it shall be given unto you.” But have you held tightly to the resources God gave you, or spent them mostly on yourself. Muttering something about financial responsibility?
- God said, “You shall not bear false witness,” but have you twisted the truth, and even tortured it, to keep yourself out of trouble or make your cause look good?
- God said, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” Have you made up excuse after excuse to work or play or do anything but worship Him? Especially on that day?
- God says, “Do not get drunk on wine, but be filled with the

Spirit.” But have you said, “Hit me again?” or “One more for the road” when you were beyond the limit? Worse, have you resisted the very Spirit of God?”

- Jesus said, “Love one another as I have loved you,” but do you find yourself indulging lingering remnants of racism or prejudice? I’m not just talking to the white folks.
- God says, “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth, but only that which builds up,” but have you said ... well, you know what you’ve said. Have you cussed or cursed or gossiped or slandered?
- Jesus says, “Abide in me,” but do you tell yourself you’re too busy even for daily Bible reading and quiet prayer time?
- Jesus tells us what to do *when* we fast. But do you continually choose a baloney sandwich over ineffable intimacy with the Almighty?
- Jesus said “Preach good news, heal the sick, cast out demons.” Have you said that’s outside your comfort zone?
- ***“The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”***
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:19-22)
- We sing, “Here I am, Lord.” I will go, Lord, if you lead me.” But do we really mean that, or are they just words?
- When God says, “Go to Nineveh,” do you head for the Spanish Rivera?

3. There are consequences for disobeying God.

Jonah 1:4 ***Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up.***

- There are natural consequences.
 - Waste money, go broke.
 - Get drunk, have a car wreck.
 - Use drugs, get hooked.
 - Cheat on your spouse, lose your marriage.
 - Be promiscuous, catch a disease.
- We might get arrested if what we do is illegal.
- We might get caught and embarrassed.
Or worse, become like those Jeremiah described, ***Are they ashamed of their detestable conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush.*** (Jeremiah 6:15)
- But all our sins will one day be made known.
- We might simply suffer from a guilty conscience, and wonder what amazing blessings might have been if we had just done what God told us to do.
 - ➔ Understand this is not punishment but chastisement.
- God loves us too much to let us ignore His ways, to veer far from the path of life.
- So yes, He sends us storms!
- What is your storm? You know, don't you?
- That's God calling you back to Him.
- There is nothing for you in Tarshish.

4. Our disobedience impacts others.

Jonah 1:5a ***All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.***

- There are no victimless crimes. No victimless sins.
- Nancy Patton was killed by a drunk driver.
- My sin hurts you. Your sin hurts me.

5. Feelings are no indicator of guilt or innocence.

Jonah 1:5b-6 *But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. 6 The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish."*

- Maybe Jonah had a "peace" about his decision.
- "It feels so right, it can't be wrong."
- Or maybe he was depressed. That happens, too.

6. Our obedience or faithfulness or repentance impacts others.

Jonah 1:16 *At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to Him.*

- When your neighbors see you getting up on Sunday morning and coming to church.
- Did you see the photo of our ordination service last Sunday? Candy posted it. I re-posted it. What a beautiful picture of racial reconciliation, as people of different ages and races laid hands on a Clifton and Debbie.

7. God gives second chances.

Jonah 1:17 *Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.*

- The fish wasn't punishment but salvation! Grace. A second chance.
- Jonah didn't drown.

Isaiah 55:6-7 *Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call on Him while He is near Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous person forsake his thoughts. Let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.*

- Gospel. God pardons through Jesus Christ.

II Chronicles 7:14 *“If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land”*

- It takes all four steps: humble, pray, seek, turn.
- Turn from Tarshis and head for Nineveh.
- Turn from self-direction and let God direct you.
- Turn from self-love and self-preservation to the amazing love and salvation of God in Jesus Christ.
- When God convicts us of sin, He is calling us closer to Himself.
- He is getting rid of all the garbage and debris between us and Him.
- He’s washing away all the gunk and the junk so that we can be close to Him, so that we can know His love, so that we can be used by Him.

I John 1:8-9 *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

- So confess. Confess and repent. Turn.
- Let Him wash you and cleanse you.
- Let Him draw you lovingly, tenderly close to Himself.