

Jonah 1 & 2
“Thanks, but Not Thanks”

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (Jonah 1 & 2) NLT

~ INTRO ~

AS I GROW AS A FATHER...

- I now have 3 teenagers in my house...
 - 12.5 – Adi
 - 16 – Joshua
 - 17.5 – Bailey

EVERYBODY KNOWS...

- The best thing about teenagers in your house...
 - They know everything!
 - And **you** don't.

I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW HARD IT IS...

- To try to give them advice...
 - In a way that I'm not telling them what to do...
 - But I'm coaching them through life.

SOMETIMES...

- They totally reject what I'm trying to say...
 - And they choose to do things the hard way...
 - But they learn the lesson for themselves.

~ STUDY ~

THIS IS MUCH LIKE WHAT WE ARE STUDYING TONIGHT...

- We meet a prophet of God...
 - Who was instructed to carry out a mission...
 - And he totally rejected what God told him to do...
 - It doesn't go so well for him.

SO NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message...
 - “Thanks, but No Thanks”

Jonah 1 & 2
“Thanks, but Not Thanks”

(Read Jonah 1:1-5 NKJV)

~ LET'S PRAY ~

~ IDEA # 1 – “God’s Plan” (vv. 1) ~

(v. 1)

WHO:

- Jonah (author of this book)
 - Would be like his journal
 - His account of what happened (in the third person)
 - He is extremely truthful!!!
 - Name means "Dove"
 - Fathers name means "My Truth"
 - He is a prophet in Israel...
 - Long after the split of Judah and Israel.

BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF MIRACLES...

- That happen throughout this book...
 - It's often contested by skeptics as being legitimate.

BUT HIS HAS BEEN VALIDIFIED...

- By Jesus Christ himself...
 - (Matthew 12:38-41) NKJV

JESUS CONFIRMS...

- The often-contested details of this book...
 - Jonah himself (v. 39)
 - A great fish (v. 40a)
 - Jonah was swallowed & alive (v. 40b)
 - Jonah was successful (v. 41)
 - The city was spared and people repented

WHEN:

Jonah 1 & 2
“Thanks, but Not Thanks”

THE TIME FRAME IS BELIEVED TO BE...

- During the reign of King Jeroboam II
 - Under intense attack of the
 - Syrian Nation (controlled by the Assyrians)

WHAT:

JONAH... THOUGH HE WAS A PROPHET IN ISRAEL...

- Would be sent to a nation other than Israel...
 - Nineveh. (A gentile nation)

NINEVEH WAS THE CAPITAL CITY...

- Of the Assyrian Nation...
 - Known for their intense cruelty & terrorism...
 - To the nations.

THEY WOULD DO HORENDOUS THINGS...

- To their captives like...
 - Filet them alive
 - Pile their captive's skulls outside their city gates...
 - Rape their women
 - Cut open the womb of pregnant women.

WHY:

(2 Kings 14:23-26) NLT

HOW DID JEREBOAM RECOVER THESE TERRITORIES?

- The scripture doesn't specifically say...
 - But we're given the book of Jonah...
 - Which tells us of a great revival...
 - By the hand of God to the enemies of God...
 - During this time of history.

GOD WAS AT WORK...

- On both sides of the boarder...
 - He **mercifully** chose to protect his people in Israel
 - He **mercifully** chose to offer salvation to wicked people
 - And **Jonah was the tool** God chose to use.

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A SIMPLE POINT FOR US:

- Let's understand that we can choose to be a part of God's plan...
 - Or we can forfeit the blessing and walk away.

"Therefore be very careful how you live - not as unwise but as wise, taking advantage of every opportunity, because the days are evil. For this reason do not be foolish, but be wise by understanding what the Lord's will is." (Ephesians 5:15-17 NET)

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO JONAH...

- As he ran away from the mission...
 - God called him to.

~ IDEA # 2 – “Running from God” (vv. 2-4) ~

(v. 2)

JONAH IS CALLED...

- To do three things:
 - “*Arise*”
 - Prepare himself
 - “*go*”
 - Take action on what he has heard
 - “*cry out*”
 - Proclaim the message

JONAH WAS COMMANDED BY GOD...

- To proclaim God's wrath & coming judgment against them...
 - Because of their great wickedness.
 - He was giving them one last opportunity to repent...
 - Before He brought His wrath upon them.

(v. 3-4)

HERE WE SEE JONAH'S RESPONSE...

- He arose to flee... “*thanks but no thanks*”
 - The opposite direction!
 - Nineveh: (Roughly 600 miles to the northeast)
 - Modern city of **Mosul, Iraq**
 - Tarshish: (Southwest)

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- Somewhere on the opposite side of the Mediterranean Sea

HIS PRIORITY WAS...

- To get as far away as possible!

HERE WE SEE JONAH...

- Being very transparent with us...
 - “...*Running from the presence of the Lord*”
 - Down to Joppa (v. 3)
 - Down into the ship (v. 3)
 - Down to the lowest parts of the ship (v. 5)
 - Asleep in the bottom of the boat!

SIMPLE APPLICATION FOR US...

- Although Jonah doesn't record...
 - Why he was running from God...

WE CAN ASK OURSELVES:

- Am I running from God today?

#1 – Afraid to Let Go
(Matthew 19:16-22) NLT

GOD WANTS TO FREE US...

- From the things that are hindering our relationship with him.
 - But sometimes there's pain involved.

#2 – Offensive Absurdity
(John 6:55-56, 60-61) NKJV (Your bible)

SEEKING TO FOLLOW...

- Is more important than seeking the blessing.

THE PEOPLE ONLY HEARD WHAT JESUS WAS SAYING...

- Instead of the spiritual principle He was teaching...
 - So they rejected it.

#3 – Stuck Without Strength

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(John 5:5-8) NLT

THE COMMAND JESUS HAD GIVEN...

- Was a physically impossible one...
- But Jesus gave him the strength to accomplish the task!

THE SAME IS TRUE FOR US...

- May we not run from what God is calling us to do...
- Because He will give us the power to accomplish the work.

(v. 4)

GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO JONAH...

- And He sends out “*Hurled*” a storm to try to stop Jonah!

~ IDEA #3 – “In The Midst of the Storm” (vv. 4-17)~

IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE...

- There are storms that come with a purpose...
- Correcting storms
- Perfecting storms

FOR A FULL TEACHING ON THIS CONCEPT...

- Pastor Jeff taught more in-depth at the end of last year...
- In *Luke 8:22-25 “Building Faith”*

BUT THERE’S NO DOUBT...

- Jonah is in a correcting storm...
- And God desires to wake him up!

HOW DO I KNOW WHICH I’M IN?

THE LORD SENDS CORRECTING STORMS INTO OUR LIFE...

- When we’ve fallen asleep in disobedience.

JUST LIKE WE HAVE STAGES OF SLEEP...

- There are stages in the Christian life:

#1 – Inactivity (v. 5)

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(v. 5)

WHEN IT WAS TIME TO WORSHIP & SEEK GOD...

- It wasn't a priority to Jonah & he was asleep...
 - Probably because he knew how God would respond...
 - “Go to Ninevah”

AND SO TOO IN OUR WALK...

- When we are confronted with something we don't like...
 - Our first reaction is to stop coming to church.

WE STOP PERSUING GOD...

- And church is no longer a priority in our lives...
 - Everything else takes more precedence.
 - Work
 - School
 - Sports

#2 – Insensitivity (v. 6)

(V. 6)

THE NEXT THING THAT HAPPENS...

- We stop praying to God...
 - Our walk with God is no longer personal.

THE STORM HADN'T GOTTEN HIS ATTENTION...

- And Jonah's heart became calloused.

WHEN WE RUN FROM GOD...

- It creates a habitual pattern and an instinct...
 - In future decisions of faith.
 - (1 Timothy 4:1-2) NLT

NOT ONLY ARE WE INSENSITIVE TO THE LORD...

- But we become insensitive to those around us...
 - Becoming *selfish & self-centered*.
 - Not caring about the needs of others.

AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS...

- This is what our life should look like:

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➤ (Matthew 16:24) NLV (New Life Version)

“Jesus said to His followers, “If anyone wants to be My follower, he must forget about himself. He must take up his cross and follow Me. If anyone wants to keep his life safe, he will lose it. If anyone gives up his life because of Me, he will save it.”

(vv. 7-14)

#3 – Insincerity (v.14)

THIS IS THE LAST STAGE THAT WE SEE...

- With Jonah...

➤ And in our walk with the Lord.

THIS IS THE STAGE WHERE...

- Other people get hurt because of our sin.

WE CAN HURT PEOPLE...

- Both...

➤ Within the Body of Christ

○ Jonah was called to serve... and RAN

- Forsaking his purpose & role in God’s plan
 - (Eph. 4:11-16)

➤ Outside the Body of Christ

○ (v. 9)

- This is straight up HYPOCRISY!
 - “I represent God’s people”

○ We are called to be witnesses... (Salt & Light)

- Jonah’s was ruined.

HOWEVER...

BY THE END OF THIS CHAPTER...

- We see God’s mercy prevailing once-again...

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- He was merciful to the sailors:
 - He didn't judge them for “killing Jonah”
 - He saved them from the massive storm
 - He saved their souls
- He was merciful to Jonah:
 - God still used him in disobedience (sailors salvation)
 - God gave a way of escape from drowning
 - God kept him alive to serve another day

~ IN CLOSING (WORSHIP TEAM) ~

BEFORE YOU GO YOUR WAY TONIGHT...

- We should take a moment to examine our walk with the Lord...

- To see if these things apply to us personally.
- Where are you at...
 - In God's plan for your life
- Are you running from Him...
 - Asleep at the wheel in disobedience?
- Are you in the midst of a storm...
 - Desperately needing His mercy?