

Lessons From



Jonah 1:17

Lessons From Jonah

- Of all the Old Testament Prophets, most people feel like they can relate to Jonah the most.
- Jonah was told to do one thing: go and preach to the people in Nineveh (**Jonah 1:1-2**)
- Instead he fled from the responsibility God placed before him (**Jonah 1:3**)

Lessons From Jonah

- Each and every one of us have responsibilities today:
 - Church
 - Work
 - Home
 - Society

Imagine if we decided that we were no longer going to be bothered with any of these.

Lessons From Jonah

- This is why the Book of Job is such a practical book for all of us, because of the great lessons it offers.
- This morning we will learn four lessons from this small but powerful book:

Lessons From Jonah

1. You Can't Run From God
2. You Can't Run From Your Own Problems
3. God May Be Foolishly Rejected
4. God's Word is For Everyone
5. An Honest Heart Will Repent
6. We Should Rejoice
7. God Aids Us Providentially

Lessons From Jonah

- **As We Embark upon this study let us remember the inspired words of the Apostle Paul:**

*For whatever things were **written** before were **written for our learning**, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*

~ Romans 15:4

You Can't Run From God



Lessons From Jonah

- **Jonah Tried**

- He tried to flee to Tarshish **(1:3)**
- Great Wind Came and the ship was in danger **(1:4)**
- Every man cried out to his own God **(1:5)**
- They cast lots to find out who was to blame for such a terrible storm and found it to be Jonah **(1:6-10)**

Lessons From Jonah

- "Throw Me Into the Sea" (**1:11-16**)
- Jonah was swallowed by a Great Fish prepared by God (**1:17**).

What we learn from this is the same thing declared by Elihu in **Job 34:21**:

Lessons From Jonah

For His eyes *are* on the ways of man, And He sees all his steps.

~ Job 34:21

Lessons From Jonah

The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place,
Keeping watch on the evil and the good.

~ Proverbs 15:3

Lessons From Jonah

And there is no creature hidden from His sight,
but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes
of Him to whom *we must give* account.

~ Hebrews 4:13

Lessons From Jonah

- God Sees Us
- God Knows US
- There is nothing hidden from Him.
- There is no secret we can keep from Him.

You Can't Run From Your Problems



Lessons From Jonah

- Jonah Had a Problem
- Nineveh was a vicious enemy to Israel.
- Jonah didn't want to preach to his enemies.
- The problem was of Jonah's own making.
- So, he tried to run away from it.

Lessons From Jonah

- Essentially Jonah Created His Own Problem by choosing not to follow God and deciding to run away.
- Sometimes in life we do the same thing.
- We Create Our Own Problems

Lessons From Jonah

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

~ **Galatians 6:7**

Lessons From Jonah

He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

~ **John 12:48**

Lessons From Jonah

- How much easier would life be if we didn't avoid or procrastinate?
- God will always get His Way no matter what.
- Jonah found that out the hard way.

God May Be Foolishly Rejected



Lessons From Jonah

- From the belly of that great fish, Jonah realized how foolish he had been.
- You cast me into the deep and the floods surrounded me **(2:3)**
- I Have been cast out of your sight **(2:4)**
- Deep Closed around me and weeds wrapped around my head **(2:5)**
- The earth closed its bars behind me forever **(2:6)**

Lessons From Jonah

- From the belly of that fish Jonah asked for deliverance
- I cried out to the Lord from the belly of death because of my affliction **(2:2)**
- I will look again toward your Holy temple **(2:4)**

Lessons From Jonah

- You have brought up my life from the pit (2:6)
- I remembered you when my soul fainted (2:7)

Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own Mercy. But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.”

~ Jonah 2:9

Lessons From Jonah

- It took three days in the belly of a great fish for God to get Jonah's heart where it needed to be.
- The fish then vomited Jonah out onto dry land.
- Sometimes God needs to discipline us to get us back on track.

Lessons From Jonah

And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: *“My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.*

Hebrews 12:5-6 (Proverbs 3:11-12)

God's Word is for Everyone



Lessons From Jonah

- Jonah didn't want to preach to Nineveh because of who they were. Yet Peter says...

“In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.”

~ Acts 10:34-35

Lessons From Jonah

- **This is the very foundation of Christianity implemented by the Lord Himself.**

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

~ Matthew 28:19-20

An Honest Heart Will Repent



Lessons From Jonah

- Jonah is told for the second time “Go to Nineveh and preach the to it the message I tell you” **(3:1-2)**
- Nineveh was a large city, three days journey in extent. You have forty days before Nineveh is overthrown **(3:3)**
- It was not a positive message but it had positive results since the people believed and repented **(3:5-10)**

Lessons From Jonah

So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them... Who can tell *if* God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish? Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

~ **Jonah 3:5, 9-10**

Lessons From Jonah

- Today we have good news to preach (gospel, salvation, heaven) but not everything in the gospel is positive...

Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”

~ Acts 24:25

Lessons From Jonah

- These things, as we see in Jonah's case, are designed to produce good results.

For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

~ 2 Corinthians 7:11

Lessons From Jonah

“But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

~ Luke 8:15

The people of Nineveh repented because they had honest hearts.

We Should Rejoice



Lessons From Jonah

- After Jonah saw the repentance of the Ninevites, he sulked **(4:1)**
- Jonah wasn't very happy that his enemies repented and were spared. In fact he was so unhappy that he wished to die **(4:2-3)**
- So God prepared a plant to give Jonah shade **(4:5-6)**
- Then God took it away to teach Jonah that he ought not to be upset over something that doesn't belong to him **(4:7-11)**

Lessons From Jonah

- **The souls of men belong to God, and as such we must note:**
 - God wants those souls to be saved (**2 Peter 3:9**)
 - When a soul is saved even the angels rejoice (**Luke 15:10**)
 - God want us to rejoice with Him (**John 4:36**)

Lessons From Jonah

What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that *sheep* than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ~ **Matthew 18:14**

Lessons From Jonah

- Jonah's anger was not helping spread God's righteousness.
- In life we all must deal with anger to some degree, but selfish anger only hurts ourselves.
- It is for this reason that James writes:

Lessons From Jonah

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man does not work the righteousness of God.

~ James 1:19-20

God Aids Us Providentially



Lessons From Jonah

Providence is the means by which **God** directs all things — both animate and inanimate, seen and unseen, good and evil — toward His worthy purpose, which means His will must finally prevail.

God did several things for Job through providence:

Lessons From Jonah

- 1) God prepared a fish **(1:17)**
- 2) God prepared a gourd **(4:6)**
- 3) God prepared a worm **(4:7)**
- 4) God prepared an east wind **(4:8)**

These things were prepared to teach Jonah a lesson.

Lessons From Jonah

Then the LORD said, “*Is it* right for you to be angry?” ... Then God said to Jonah, “*Is it* right for you to be angry about the plant?” And he said, “*It is* right for me to be angry, even to death!” But the LORD said, “You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?” ~ **Jonah 4:4, 8-11**

Lessons From Jonah

- Do we not also learn through our experiences?
- We learn from our shortcomings
- We learn from our blessings
- We learn from those around us, and God uses all of it!

Lessons From Jonah

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

~ Romans 8:28

Lessons From Jonah

- There are many other great lessons in the book of Jonah, but let's consider these that we have studied.
 1. You Can't Run From God
 2. You Can't Run From Your Own Problems
 3. God May Be Foolishly Rejected
 4. God's Word is For Everyone
 5. An Honest Heart Will Repent
 6. We Should Rejoice
 7. God Aids Us Providentially

Lessons From Jonah

- How many of these things are not true today?
- Every single one of them still apply to us right here this morning.
- If you become a Christian or come back to the flock, God will forgive you through Christ, Angels will rejoice, and we will as well!

This Morning Let God Guide You

Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own Mercy. But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation *is* of the LORD.”

~ Jonah 2:8-9

To Repent and Come Home