

Adult SS - Jonah: The Reluctant Prophet-6

“Precepts, not providences, are to guide believers. And when Christians quote a providence against a precept—which is to set God against God—they act most strangely. There are devil’s providences as well as divine providences, and there are tempting providences as well as assisting providences, so learn to judge between the one and the other.”

Spurgeon. (2017). The Spurgeon Study Bible: Notes (p. 1218). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

A. The Word of the LORD Came v1,2

B. The Prophet Rose Up To Flee v3-7

1. The Mighty Tempest v4

2. The Mariner’s Fear v5

Notes:

These mariners, the Bible says, *“cried every man unto his god...”* There was a fervency with which they cried out in prayer.

It would not be uncommon for heathens to seek to appease what they would consider national deities or the gods of the land.

II Kings 17:25,26 *And so it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they feared not the LORD: therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which slew some of them. Wherefore they spake to the king of Assyria, saying, The nations which thou hast removed, and placed in the cities of Samaria, **know not the manner of the God of the land:** therefore he hath sent lions among them, and, behold, they slay them, because they **know not the manner of the God of the land.***

I Kings 20:26-28 “26 And it came to pass at the return of the year, that Ben-hadad numbered the Syrians, and went up to Aphek, to fight against Israel. 27 And the children of Israel were numbered, and were all present, and went against them: and the children of Israel pitched before them like two little flocks of kids; but the Syrians filled the country. 28 And there came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, Thus saith the Lord, Because the Syrians have said, **The Lord is God of the hills, but he is not God of the valleys**, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall know that I am the Lord.”

Notes:

Think about this also, **these mariners were willing in the situation to place their lives above their possessions.**

How much more should we as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ value our spiritual lives; our walk with the Lord.

Are there things in our lives that we need to part with or cast out?

3. The Messenger's _____ v5

Up until this point, we really have not spoken much about Jonah's actions, **except for His disobedience.**

“Our own devotional habits will also reflect whether we are living an obedient life or not. Disobedience will produce a decline in our interest in reading and studying the Word of God and in praying. These things, as we noted above, reflect the presence of God; and we will flee from them when we walk in disobedience. Our church attendance will oftentimes reveal our obedience or lack thereof, too. Disobedience does not like the presence of God; and since worship speaks of the presence of God, church attendance will frequently suffer when disobedience enters our lives.”
- John Butler

Jonah is surrounded by heathens. He is headed the direction of the world.

“One of the telltale marks of disobedience is the worldly crowd with whom the disobedient person chooses to associate. A person advertises their spiritual condition very conspicuously by whom they choose as friends and associates.” - John Butler

There are several things you and I should consider as we see Jonah down in the side of the ship.

- Jonah went to sleep before the storm. (This that we find in our text is not Jonah’s reaction to the storm, but rather his attempt to “dull his conscience” as one expositor put it.)
- Jonah left in a hurry in his flight to Joppa and along with the weight of disobedience and fatigue associated with this kind of life falls into a deep sleep.

By way of example, **Acts 2:42** tell us that from the beginning Christians were in fellowship one with another.

This holds a vital function for you and I as believers.

*“42 And they continued stedfastly in the **apostles’ doctrine and fellowship**, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*

The word used for fellowship in **Acts 2:42** gives the idea of having communion one with another or having things in common.

What is that common bond that joins us together as believers?

It is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jonah Ignores the Problem

v12 tells us *“And he said [Jonah] unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: **for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.**”*

I would say, that many in disobedience are found in this way, **ignoring the problem** or we might better say, attempting to ignore the problem.

Verse 6 The Shipmaster awakens and questions Jonah.

Verse 7 The mariners cast lots.

Verse 8 The mariners question Jonah.

Verse 9-11 Jonah finally speaks about his disobedience. (Either by direct admission or inference by the mariners and the shipmaster).

Isaiah chapter 1 and verse 11 states, *“To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.”*

We could say this, that the nation of Israel here in **Isaiah chapter 1** was attempting to ignore the problem of their departure from the Lord. They were going through the motions and acting as if nothing was wrong.

The Lord’s solution is of course is found in the person of Jesus Christ and is stated in this way in **verses 16,17**

“Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.”

In **verse 18**, we find this admonishment to do away with this ignoring of disobedience.

*“**Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.**”*

There is a _____ **of disobedience** that must take place by the transgressor.

We must be ever watchful against our carnal tendency to ignore our disobedience or try to cover our disobedience by putting on a show of external righteousness.

God’s desire for Jonah, as it is for you and I, is to fellowship with us.

It is for our joy to be full. It is for us to *“walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”* **I John 1:7**

1. The Master's _____ v6

V6 *“So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, **What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.**”*

What is the purpose of the Shipmaster's question?

Notes:

We see in our text **the Shipmaster's diligence.**

He was diligent in his task as being in charge of the ship.

We see secondly, **the Shipmaster's demand.**

Notice his question, *“What meanest thou, O Sleeper?...”*

Based on the language of the question, the shipmaster having found Jonah in such a way is asking, “Why are you asleep at a time like this?”

It reminds us of the Biblical admonition found in **Romans 13:12-13**, *“12 And that, **knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. 13 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.**”*

Next week we will continue down through this next week to see Jonah's response as well as the Shipmaster's command.