

September 25th, 2019
Pinecrest Baptist Church
Wednesday - PM.

Sermon Series: Serving the Master of the Mission
Sermon #1 Title: The Man God Calls
Sermon Series Text: (Jonah)

For the next few weeks we are going to pour over and through the book of Jonah, and above all things we are going to learn that God is the Master of the Mission, and if you are going to serve Him, you are going to be serving a Missionary God.

The book of Jonah

It is written in the third person, Jonah being the author.

Although Jonah “prophesied” this is a history book. It is a historical account, of an actual event, even attested to by the Lord Jesus Himself.

It is a historical account of God choosing a man, a man refusing God, and God using the man anyway.

Now with all of that being said, let’s get to know Jonah. What kind of man did God use to get His message to the city of Nineveh?

I. A Man of Faith

*Note – Whatever else may be said of Jonah, it can be said that Jonah truly was a man who feared the Lord. Holy Faith and Godly fear are two sides of the same coin, and we know

that Jonah was a man whose faith had a firm footing in God the Father.

A. His Public Ministry

1.) He was a recognized Prophet of God.

*Note – Long before the events of this book take place we find that Jonah was already a man with a ministry.

*Note – He prophesied to Jeroboam in 2 Kings about recapturing some of Israel’s borders.

a.) 2 Kings 14:25 – “He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gathhepher.”

*Note – Jonah’s ministry existed prior to his call to go to Nineveh.

B. His Personal Testimony

1.) In chapter 1:9 when asked by the sailors who he is, Jonah gives a personal testimony.

a.) “I am a Hebrew” – that his nationality

b.) “I fear the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and dry land.”

*Note – Jonah made professed two things in that statement.

(1.) God as The Creator

(2.) God as His Ruler

*Note – In other words Jonah said, “The God of heaven that made the sea and dry land, is my Lord, - I fear Him!”

(3.) the word “fear” is the Hebrew word, “yaw-ray” which does mean Fearful, but it also means “to be morally reverent.”

*note – Jonah left no doubt about that he was a servant, and that God was His master.

C. His Practical Theology 4:2

1.) “For I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness.”

*Note – Jonah didn’t just have a trivial knowledge of God, he had a working theology. – Not only did he believe God, He knew God, and knew God well enough to know how God would respond to a repentant people.

(Here is a clear difference between people who KNOW God, and people who merely admit that God exists. When you know God, you know the Kind of God that He is, and Jonah knew that He was a merciful God.)

(When someone says that they believe that God is cruel, they are hanging a neon sign around their neck that says I DON’T KNOW GOD.)

It can clearly be stated that Jonah was a man of Faith.

But there is another characteristic . . .

II. A Man of Fury (4:1)

*Note – Have you ever wondered why Jonah did what he did? Being a prophet of Israel there can be little doubt that Jonah knew rebelling against God and running from Him was senseless.

Psalm 139:7-10 declares – “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.”

We are given a small clue in chapter 4:2

4:1-2 – “But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry. And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish:”

I want you to note:

A. His Vengeful Disposition

1.) The thought of God saving the people of Nineveh absolutely infuriated Jonah!

*Note – Why? He had been Pre-Disposed to a Hatred for these people.

*Note – Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria. This event takes place in roughly 760 BC. Roughly Between 50 and 60 years prior to this event, the Assyrians conquered lands between Nineveh and into the northern part of Israel. In fact, the Assyrian king Shalmanezzar III required Jehu King of Israel to bow at his feet and to pay taxes and tribute to him. That being said, the Assyrians were most known for their cruelty.

- Skinning their captives alive
- Mutilating, and cutting people up pieces at a time.
- They were fascinated with torturing, raping, and pillaging the peoples that they conquered.

That being said, their campaign into Northern Israel reached through and beyond Jonah's home town.

- a.) Jonah's own people had been subjected to the cruelties of the people in Nineveh.

B. His Vindictive Desires

1.) Notice what Jonah said, (Paraphrase) "I fled to Tarshish because I KNEW that you would be merciful to them if they repented, and I didn't want them to have mercy."

- a.) Jonah did not want them saved.
- b.) Jonah did want them to be destroyed.

*Note – Jonah was a man faith, but he was also a man of fury, and he would have rather died, (he thought) than to forgive them or to see them forgiven.

III. A Man of Folly

*Note – Jonah's fury drove him to be a man full of folly. There is nothing more foolish than for a servant of God to rebel against God.

A. His Rebellion against God

1.) 1:3 – "But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord."

*Note – It wasn't just Nineveh that Jonah was angry at, it was also the Lord.

- a.) To flee from the presence of the Lord is not in the sense that he was trying to escape God's omnipresence. – Jonah knew that He couldn't do that.
- b.) Language scholars tell us that this is the same language that would be used of a King's Servant who no longer wanted to serve in the King's Presence.

(If a man served inside the King's court, he would be considered serving in the King's presence, and if that servant no longer wanted be a servant in the king's presence this would be the sort of language that he used.) – Do you know what all of that means? ---- Jonah resigned!

*Note – In other words, Jonah said, "I would rather resign from the office of prophet, than do what you just told me to go do."

*Note – That's no different than many men who have said, "I turn down the office, because I'm not willing to do what God has instructed me to do."

- c.) No WHERE in this book does Jonah call himself a prophet.

*Note – No where in his writings does he identify himself as a prophet.

*Note – LISTEN – RESIGNING THE CALL DID NOT REMOVE THE CALL, THE CALL NEVER GOES AWAY!

*Note – When a man subtracts himself from the call he is merely adding himself to the disobedient.

*Note – God’s call on your life is not a polite offer, it is a direct command.

B. His Ruthlessness with Men

*Note – I want you to note just how far the fury of Jonah went in this story.

- 1.) Considering everybody around him, he was willing to let their boat sink with them in it.
- 2.) Once he told them what would cure this storm, he still made them throw him overboard, he wasn’t about to jump.
- 3.) Even the goodness of the sailors didn’t soften the hard heart of this foolish preacher.

*Note – Jonah was a man of folly.

IV. A Man of Failure

A. He Failed as a Saint

- 1.) By the time of Christ, in the minds of the Jews, Jonah was a forgotten prophet.
 - a.) Not forgotten by Jesus, Jesus is the one who reminded everyone of Jonah.
 - b.) John 7:52 – In the Pharisees rejection of Jesus listen to what they said – “Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.”

*Note – Many of them rejected Jesus on the premise that no prophet ever came from Galilee. One did. – Jonah. Jonah became the Forgotten Prophet among the Jewish leaders of the time of Christ.

*Note – I wonder – Had Jonah been a Successful, Vibrant Prophet, would there have been some who would have received Jesus, because there was a prophet in Galilee.

B. He Failed as a Servant

- 1.) He resigned His office
- 2.) He disobeyed His Master
- 3.) He was disgruntled with his Master’s Decision.

*Note – Jonah could hardly be called a Faithful Servant

C. He Failed as a Student

- 1.) As far as we’re told, when the story ended Jonah still had not learned his lesson.
 - a.) 4:9 – “And God said to Jonah, Does thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death.”

*Note – Through the entire process, Jonah only got bitter, he never got better. Even though He obeyed the second time, it was through clenched teeth.

Obedience will not change a rebellious heart. But a submissive heart, will change your manner of obedience.

Conclusion: Now all of that being said, Jonah being the kind of man that he was, you are to know this: - The Mission always belongs to the Master, never to the Man! Your Master is in the Mission Business above all other businesses. And if you are going to serve Him, you must serve Him in the MISSIONS department, with a MISSION Mind, or you will not be serving Him at all.