

October 2nd, 2019
Pinecrest Baptist Church
Wednesday – P.M.

Sermon Series: Serving the Master of the Mission
Sermon #2 Title: The Ministry God Chooses
Sermon #2 Text: (Jonah 1:2, 2:1-2)

We are learning about serving the Master of the Mission as we study the book of Jonah. We've taken notice of the Man God Calls, but this morning, we are going to observe the Ministry that God Chooses.

When a Man is God Called, it is for a Ministry that God has Chosen.

Now we learned last week, and I hope we learn throughout the study of this book, if you are going to serve the Master, then you are going to serve the Mission, because we have a Mission Minded Master. – God is in the Mission Business, and He is in the business of putting Men in the Mission Business.

But when He does, it is for a Ministry that He has already Chosen. As we study this book of Jonah, there are three things that we can learn about the Ministry that God chooses.

Now what's true of Jonah's ministry is true of all ministries; not necessarily in the details, but in principle.

I. Undivided Attention – “Arise and Go”

*Note – From the very first instruction that God gave Jonah, He expected Him to be “sold out.”

- You cannot “arise and go” in your spare time.
- You cannot “arise and go” while you're doing something else. To arise and go, required two things of Jonah.
- *Note – By the way, whatever it is that God has for you to do requires the same two things.

A. Separation from the Cares of This Life

*Note – The first thing that is required for the ministry God chooses is a disconnection from the affairs that this life considers to be decision making factors.

*Note – Let me give you a couple of verses.

1.) 2 Timothy 2:4 – “No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

2.) Jesus speaking of how the Word lands on the thorny soil said, “that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection. Luke 8:14 (KJV)

*Note – I can name you men who proclaimed that they were called to preach, but never embraced the ministry because there was “no money in it.”

*Note – When God chooses a ministry, whatever that ministry is, He expects nothing else to receive our attention and efforts.

3.) When God told Jonah to Arise and Go, He was simultaneously telling him to “get up and leave.” Which meant leave some things behind.

a.) Jonah was a prophet recognized by the king. – He had clearance at the highest levels of government, and

enjoyed being effective in his present office.

b.) 2 Kings 14:25 tells us that Jonah had a home town. It is not unlikely that Jonah still his residence there.

*Note – Now there was no command for Jonah to Go and STAY, but for him just to go.

*Note – Jonah must have known that this assignment was a temporary assignment, because God was going to destroy them if they didn't repent, and He would deliver them if they did.

*Note – Now all of that being said, Be it Temporary or Permanent, God required a Leaving of Things Behind in order for Jonah to carry out his mission.

B. Dedication to the Cause of the Lord

*Note – Let's go back to our verse in 2 Timothy 2:4

1.) No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; **that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.**

2.) 1 Corinthians 7:20-24 – "Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.

²¹ Art thou called *being* a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use *it* rather.

²² For he that is called in the Lord, *being* a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, *being* free, is Christ's servant.

²³ Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

²⁴ Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.

*Note – When the Lord calls a man and chooses his ministry, He expects that man to choose that ministry that He has chosen.

*Note – Paul said in verse 22 – He that is called is Free and He that is Free is the Lord's Servant.

*Note – There is NO FREEDOM OUTSIDE OF SERVITUDE to JESUS CHRIST.

(When God frees a man He frees him to do as God pleases)

*Note – What God fully required of Jonah, was for him to disconnect himself from the cares of this life and Dedicate himself to the Cause of the Lord, and I tell you on the authority of the Word of God, that whatever God has for you, He requires the same thing.

*Note – The Ministry God chooses requires our Undivided Attention.

II. Undeserving People – "Nineveh that great city."

*Note – Every ministry that God chooses is the same in principle as the ministry that He chose for Jonah. – To Go to an UNDESERVING People.

*Note – Regardless of what God has for you, He has aimed you like an archer does an arrow at people who do not deserve to be reached.

*Note – What does it take for people to be Undeserving? Looking at the city of Nineveh, there are three things that we can see in their behavior toward God, their behavior toward others and their behavior toward themselves. (In all areas their:)

A. Their Logical Consequence is Condemnation

1.) Common sense dictates that they did deserve judgment because of their behavior.

a.) Some things to take note of about Nineveh:

- (1.) It was built by Nimrod the prototype Antichrist.
- (2.) They were a brutal people in every way
- (3.) They were a depraved people in every way
- (4.) In the book of Nahum 1:2 we find that Nineveh was considered an "enemy" by God.

*Note – Now that being said, you can put it down big and plain that anyone whose logical natural common sense conclusion would be that they should be condemned by God is a candidate for being an undeserving people.

B. Their Moral Condition is Corruption

1.) Listen to the king's confession and decree of chapter 3:8 – "Let them turn every man from his evil way, and from the violence that is in his hands."

- a.) The Ninevite people were Morally corrupt.
- b.) The word for "way" in 3:8 is the word that means "course of life," or "mode of action."

2.) These were liars, cheaters, adulterers, and thieves, - abusers of themselves and others.

*Note – Moral Corruption is a prime candidate to qualify as an Undeserving People.

C. Their Spiritual Conviction is Confusion

*Note – There was another group that in God's sovereignty that He placed in Jonah's path, and that was the group of mariners.

1.) 1:5 – "and the mariners were afraid, and cried every man to his god."

- a.) They were spiritually confused.
- 2.) The mariners were a "polytheistic" bunch
- 3.) The Ninevites were a "polytheistic" bunch
- 4.) Let it be said loud and long that we are living in "polytheistic" society.

*Note- The Lord sent His MONOTHEISTIC prophet into a POLYTHEISTIC People.

*Note – "God's chosen ministry is not now, nor has it ever been to minister to those who are right, it is a care for those who are guilty."

Now let it be said

The Ninevites were not a Hebrew people, nationally, ethnically, racially, economically, or religiously, and God said to Jonah, Arise and Go to Nineveh!

*Note – The Ministry God Chooses calls for our Undivided Attention, is sent to an Undeserving People, and it is to carry an Undiluted Message.

III. Undiluted Message – "Cry Against It."

*Note – ALL mission work, ALL ministry work, IS Message Work.

*Note – People may say from time to time, "I just try to live it. I witness with my lifestyle." – I know what you mean, but you need to realize that no one is saved by your lifestyle.

- Augustine said, "Preach the gospel at all times, and if necessary use words."

*NOTE – Everything that God DID, DOES, and WILL DO, is for the single solitary purpose of delivering His Message.

- Miracles were about the Message
- Mission works were about the Message
- Ministries are about the Message

A. It is a Specific Message

1.) 3:2 – “Arise and go to Nineveh that great city, and preach the preaching that I bid thee.”

- a.) Every God Chosen Ministry in God’s Chosen Mission is to proclaim God’s Chosen Message. – His Word!
- b.) “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown, so the people of Nineveh believed God.” 3:4-5

*Note – Real prophets, real preachers, real ministers, and real missionaries, say only what God has said to say.

- Jonah was to preach about an overthrow
- Noah was to preach about a flood
- Jeremiah was to preach about captivity
- Isaiah was to preach about the coming Messiah

*Note – What are we to preach?

2.) 2 Timothy 4:2 – “Preach the Word.”

Wherever God has you in His service it is for the purpose of getting HIS WORD, HIS MESSAGE, Proclaimed.

B. It is a Saving Message

1.) Jonah preached of Judgment, but for the purpose of Deliverance.

- a.) 3:10 – “And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that He had said He would do unto them; and He did it not.

*Note – I am afraid that much of the preaching that goes on today is much different.

*Note – They were condemned that they might be saved!

2.) You cannot be saved until you’ve first been condemned.

*Note – Why do we tell people there is a hell? So hopefully we can turn them toward heaven.

*Note – Why do we tell people that they are guilty of sin? So hopefully they will turn to the Savior of Grace.

Conclusion: God has not only Called Men, He has Chosen Ministries.

If you are going to serve the Master, then You are Going to participate in the Mission!

If you do not participate in the Mission, then you are not serving the Master!

God is in the Mission Business. Are you in the same Business that He is?

