

November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Pinecrest Baptist Church  
a.m.

Sermon Series: Serving the Master of the Mission  
Sermon #5 Title: The Mission God Completes  
Sermon #5 Text: (Jonah 3:1-5)

Three things God Always Completes

### I. His Work in His People

\*Note – The Apostle Paul said in Philippians 1:6 – “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:” What God starts in a man God always finishes in a man, and we can see that clearly in His man Jonah.

#### A. Specifically

- 1.) “The Word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time.”
- 2.) Did you know that Jonah was not the only prophet in Israel at that time?
  - a.) Amos was a known prophet at the same time.
  - b.) Hosea was a known prophet at the same time.
  - c.) POSSIBLY – Isaiah had begun prophesying at this time as well.

\*Note – That being said, God’s Mission wasn’t just for Nineveh to do the hearing, but it was for Jonah to do the going!

\*Note – Don’t get the idea that the only purpose for Mission work rests in the needs of the lost. One of the fundamental purposes for Mission work rests in the need of the Saved!

- Saved people NEED to go, as much as LOST people need to hear.

\*Note – I love this church, but I didn’t come hear for you. I came here for me.

\*Note – When I get a chance to tell someone about Jesus, it’s not JUST that they need to hear it, but I need to be saying it.

- 3.) “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

\*Note – I heard about a farmer once who had huge crop of beans. He also had three boys that he used continually in the nurturing of that crop. One day a neighbor came by and asked the farmer, “What do you need with all of those beans?” To which the farmer replied, I’m not raising beans. I’m raising boys.

\*Note – God is Raising His Kids, and He Raises Them in His Business, which is the Mission Business.

- God had a work in Jonah Specifically, but He also completed His work in Jonah, Tenaciously.

#### B. Tenaciously

- 1.) Don’t get the idea that when Jonah was done with the job that God was done with Jonah! – It wasn’t the JOB God was working on, it was Jonah!
- 2.) I’ve told you that when Jonah was in the belly of the whale, he didn’t change his mind about Nineveh he changed his mind about God.

\*Note – The Bible tells us that after the city repented, God was still working on Jonah – 4:5-11

- a.) Without getting into the lessons of the gourd and the worm, I merely want you to see that even up through the last word of the book, God is dealing with Jonah.

- 3.) Psalm 138:8 The Psalmist declared, “The LORD will perfect *that which* concerneth me:”

\*Note – God does not pursue you until your work is finished for Him, God pursues you until His work is finished in you!.

### **C. Victoriously**

1.) I believe with all of my heart that God conquered Jonah's heart. – I believe that ultimately Jonah was a changed man. – How do you know that preacher?

a.) God never fails – He always wins.  
(1.) Hebrews 12:2 – “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.”

b.) We have this book don't we.  
(1.) Jonah is the author of this book and it is stocked full with the marks of a humbled heart.

(a.) Jonah never calls himself a prophet – that's in second kings.  
(b.) There is only one hero in this book, and Jonah's not it, God is!

\*Note – A Humbled Heart is a Conquered Heart. God will always finish His work in His people.

## **II. His Will for His Plan**

\*Note – God will accomplish His will, and when it came to Nineveh God had a twofold will. He wanted Nineveh to be 1.) A Warned People, and 2.) A Reformed People.

\*Note – God says in His Word, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked,

- As one little boy said, God would rather Warn you than Warm you.

### **A. That Nineveh be a Warned People**

1.) Notice verses 4-5 read.

\*Note – They heard Jonah, but believed God. – That's how all real preaching is to work out.

- Now how did they know that God was speaking to them through Jonah?

### **2.) God was Seen in the Signs**

a.) What were the signs? Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites.

How is that? – Luke 11:30 – Jesus said, “For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.”

\*Note – How was Jonah a sign to the Ninevites? – There are some logical suppositions that we can make. I want to tell you three things I think happened.

#### **#1. The Mariners Reported Jonah's Death**

a.) When the storm was stilled what were the mariners left with? – An Empty Ship – they had cast all of their cargo into the sea.

b.) When the storm was stilled which direction were the Mariners pointed? – “toward the land” chapter 1:13.

(1.) Don't forget that Jonah was a prophet that had the ear of the King, he was a “known” prophet.

c.) I think the Mariners returned to Joppa and gave the news.

#### **#2. The Mariners Witnessed Jonah's “Resurrection”**

a.) – Why do I think that? – The timeline tells me so.

(1.) “they would have been the only ones to know how much time elapsed between Jonah's going into the water, and Jonah's coming out of the water.”

(2.) Now that being said, I believe Jonah was put out on dry land back at Joppa. Jonah and the Mariners both knew when he went in the water, but only the Mariners would have known

what time it was when he came out of the water.

\*Note – All of this is happening in a country when everything must be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses.

\*Note – All throughout the Bible God does His work before the eyes of chosen witnesses.

#3. The Mariners and Jonah spread the news, and the news reached Nineveh.

a.) I imagine the Mariners telling of Jonah's God of Heaven that started the storm and stopped the storm.

b.) I imagine the Mariners telling of Jonah's disappearance into the fish, and reappearance down on the shore line.

c.) I imagine the Mariners speaking of God punishing and protecting His prophet.

\*Note – All of that being said, Jonah was a Living Sign of the Sovereign Lord, and was walking before the very eyes of the Ninevites.

2.) God was Heard in the Words

a.) "Yet, forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown."

(1.) That's just a short message.

(2.) That's not an instructional message at all, that's merely an informational message.

\*Note – God didn't call them to repent, He told them they would be overthrown. Why?

\*Note – Their evil was self evident –listen to the cry of the king in verse 8.

- Men may not know their doctrinal sins, but they certainly know their moral sins – the Bible calls it the law of their conscience.

- What did Jesus say? – "Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil."

- God did not give them a message of deliverance, he gave them a message of destruction, and they knew what to do about it.

## **B. That Nineveh be a Transformed People**

1.) It was His will that they be Transformed:

a.) Individually – verse 8 "let them turn every one from his evil way."

\*Note – Before God changes a nation, He changes a people. – There is not a legislative problem, a judicial problem, or a political problem in any nation that would not be cured by the people of that being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

\*Note – Have you ever wondered what this nation would look like if there 300 million Christian voters?

b.) Nationally –

(1.) – read verse 5-9

\*Note- God used the federal government to pay for the publishing of His message.

\*Note –When God changed them individually, God changed the politically.

\*Note – I want to tell you today, that it is God's Will that the people of this world be warned and transformed, and He will accomplish His Will.

(What about those who are never transformed? – Even within God's plan, they are accomplishing His Will. – How's that? It is God's will never to save anyone against their will.)

\*Note – Jesus said in Matthew 23:37 – "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not!"

Deliverance – Takes Your Will and God's Will  
Destruction only takes His!

### III. The Word of His Promise

\*Note – God always accomplishes what He says that He will. In the case of Nineveh, we see God's Word wonderfully fulfilled in two areas.

#### A. Providing Mercy and Grace

1.) verse 10 –

2.) How is verse 10 a fulfillment of God's Word, it says that He didn't do what He said He would?

3.) 4:2 – Jonah said, "I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, and slow to anger,"

(1.) Now read Psalm 103:8 – "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger."

\*Note – In the Hebrew language, it is almost a direct quote. – The Mercy God provided Nineveh, Jonah recognized as founded in Psalm 103:8.

\*Note – Amos 3:7 – "Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."

\*Note- Their deliverance was based upon the Word of God.

\*Note – But I am sad to say that the story doesn't end in the book of Jonah.

God's Word of Destruction would be fulfilled approximately 100 years later. You can read about that from the prophet Nahum.

\*Note – Not only did God deliver by His Word, He destroyed by His Word. God completed the Word of His promise in the:

#### B. Pouring out Judgment and Wrath

1.) 3:4 – "Yet, forty days."

a.) If you look behind the king's English, and look at the word "yet" – it is the Hebrew "ode" – among it's

definitions is the concept, of "henceforth." – meaning that this proclamation is a "henceforth" proclamation.

\*Note – In other words, God did not eliminate His judgment of the city. Rather God passed over the righteous generation, and judged the sinful generation.

\*Note – Now that being said. God will Judge! There is no ceasing, no avoiding, no turning, no action that will stop God's wrath and judgment from pouring out.

\*Note All warnings of Judgment are Permanent Warnings of Judgment! We cannot make it go away, but He's offered a way to make it pass by.