

"FROM ONE PIT TO ANOTHER"

(Study on the Book of Jonah)

Lesson 1: "You Can Run, But You Can't Hide"

Oct. 30, 2022

Jonah 1:1-4

LESSON OUTLINE

I. Overview

Old Testament

Jonah 1:1-4

New Testament

2Timothy 3:16

Ephesians 4:26

Colossians 3:8

Ephesians 4:31

Mark 3:5

1Peter 4:8

1Timothy 4:8

Matthew 5:39

II. Three Commands From The Lord

2Kings 14:25

Jonah 1:1-3

Genesis 10:11-12

Nahum 1:9-12

Nahum 2:12-23

Nahum 3:4

Psalms 19:1-6

Romans 1:18-20

Matthew 5:44

III. Where Could I Go---O, Where Could I Go

Jonah 1:3
Psalms 139:7-12

James 1:22

IV. Down, Down, Down

Jonah 1:3-4

Mark 4:35-38

Jonah Section One

Chapter/Verse:

1:1 Word of God to Jonah

1:2 Plan of God

1:3 Jonah Runs

1:4 The Tempest

Name/Word Meanings

1. Jonah: Dove
2. Amittai: True
3. Joppa: Peace
4. Nineveh: Handsome or Agreeable
5. Tarshish: To beat down or to shatter

6. Deceive: Wandering from the right path; lured away; knowing the Word and not doing it, thus wandering away purposefully.

Questions to Consider

1. Why do you think that we react to the Word of the Lord negatively at times?
2. Talk about the difficulty of being a "doer of the Word" when we have been personally hurt.
3. What happens when you run from obedience?
4. How do you put yourself into the P.I.T.?
5. When you find yourself in the PIT, how do you get out?
6. Why do people think that they can run from God?
7. How do you "exercise toward godliness?"
8. When we look for Grace and Mercy from God, why do you think that we are reluctant to extend the same to others?
9. Why do you think that God sent Jonah to preach to the Ninevites? Was Jonah justified in his reluctance to go given what he knew about the Ninevites?

SisStar Reflections

1. No matter what you do or where you go, you can't escape from God.
2. There are always consequences to poor behavior and choices, and blessings as a result of Godly choices.

3. When you run from obedience, you are running from God.
4. Understand that when you are disobedient to the Word of God, this is the same as running from God.
5. God's Word is always specific. He has given you the Gift of the Holy Spirit who leads you into the Truth of the Word. The strength for obedience comes from the Holy Spirit and not yourself.
6. Purposeful disobedience will put you into the PIT but purposeful obedience will provide your escape from the PIT.
7. Your obedience to the Word just might be the way of salvation for those "ites" in your life.

Historical Accuracy

The historical character of the man Jonah is vouched for by Jesus Christ (Mt. 12:39-41). The account of Jonah in the belly of the great fish for three days was a sign or type of our Lord's burial and resurrection. Both are miraculous and both are equally credible. Jonah was a bigoted Jew and was unwilling to testify to a Gentile city, and he was angry at God for sending him to Nineveh.

Jonah was a seasoned prophet and is mentioned in II Kings 14:25, St. Mt. 12:39-41, St. Luke 11:29-32. The book of Jonah shows Jonah's mission, his disobedience, his punishment, his prayer and his repentance. It also shows how Jonah went from one PIT to another PIT.

Jonah was a reluctant prophet and he tried to run from his mission. He tried to hide from the presence of God, but learned that God's Purposes will be accomplished. Jonah was either written by Jonah or by one of his disciples during his ministry which was from approximately 793 BC to 758 BC. Jonah was God's prophet to the ten Northern tribes of Israel during a time of relative peace and prosperity. The nation had gone into idolatry, and justice was perverted and meaningless. God's people were spiritually, morally and ethically bankrupt. God gave them space to repent, but they didn't listen to Him. As a result of their apostasy, God allowed the Assyrian nation to overcome the Northern Kingdom and carry them away captive.

Nineveh

Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, and was a particularly evil city. Jonah was reluctant to carry a message of peace and salvation to this city because he didn't think they deserved to be saved. Jonah and the Jews felt spiritually superior because they were the chosen of God and they felt that Gentiles were beneath them. By sending Jonah to Nineveh and the fact that Nineveh repented, God was showing His chosen people that they should be ashamed for not repenting themselves - especially since they were God's chosen. The fact that a pagan city would repent because of a Word from the Lord and God's chosen would not repent is a lesson for us all.

Nineveh was and still is in current day Iraq. It is surrounded by the city of Mosul. There was even an ancient statue of Jonah there, but the terrorists destroyed it when they took over Mosul. Jonah is well-known in that area.

The Lord Jesus Christ made a comparison between the Jews of His time and Nineveh. The Pharisees and the Sadducees were unwilling to believe God and repent, and Jesus contrasted the eager repentance of Nineveh when they heard the

Word to the disregard of the Word by the Jewish rulers. He used Jonah's experience of three days in the belly of the great fish as an illustration of his own death, burial and resurrection.

The book of Jonah is a picture of God's Compassion, Forgiveness, Grace and Mercy. God gave to Nineveh just what Jonah did not want to give - and He gave to Jonah what Jonah was unwilling to give to Nineveh. This book shows Jonah's anger in the midst of God's Grace - and how God was true to His Character.