

Jonah - Not Just Some Fish Story

Responding to the Word of God

Jonah 1:1-5

Is this story "for real?"

- Matt. 12:38-41 - If it isn't, then _____ didn't spend 3 days and 3 nights away from this earth after death.

Background: One of the greatest enemies to God's chosen people during the life of Jonah were the Assyrians. In fact, history records that the Assyrians were one of the cruelest nations to ever exist. Jonah, a prophet of God in Israel from the tribe of Zebulun, is summoned by God to go preach to probably the wickedest city in the wickedest nation on the earth at that time, the capital city of Ninevah.

I. (v.1-2) The Word of the Lord came to Jonah....

A. God's Word comes to us in the same way today.

1. The Word of God comes to us and we are _____.
 - a. 1 Peter 1:23-25 -
 - b. Romans 10:17 - *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*
2. Conviction of sin, righteousness, or judgment are Words from God that nourish us.
 - a. John 16:7-13 -
 - b. Job 23:12 - *"Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food."*
3. The Words of God direct us through this dark world.
 - a. Psalm 119:105 - *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my _____."*
 - b. 2 Peter 1:19-20 - *"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."*
4. What is a time (or times) when the Word of God has specifically spoken to me?

II. (v. 3) But Jonah...

A. We must make the same choice as Jonah when the Word of God comes to us.

1. How do I _____ the Word of God?
 - a. Luke 8:4-15 -
 - b. James 1:23-25 -
 - c. Luke 11:28 - *"But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."*
2. Who or what _____ me from obeying the Word of God?
 - a. Gal. 5:7 - *"Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?"*

III. (v. 4) But the Lord...

A. God directs **His children** back to obedience even if it takes uncomfortable circumstances.

1. The Lord re-directs His Children
 - a. Hebrews 12:5-11 -
 - b. Pr. 16:9 - *"A man's heart deviseth his way; but the LORD directeth his steps."*

2. God will use a variety of _____.

a. 2 Sam. 7:14 - *"I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men"*

3. We do not always receive _____ from God.

a. 1 Corinthians 11:31-32- *"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world."*

IV. (v. 5) **Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.**

A. Men that should have been hearing about the great God of Israel from God's own chosen prophet, Jonah, were afraid, crying to other gods, and trying to save their lives their own way. All of this took place while Jonah, God's man, was _____.

B. Are we _____ in the place that God has placed us to be a witness for Him.

a. Rom 14:7-8 - *"For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's."*

b. Rom 13:11-14 -

c. Sleeping people are _____, _____, and mouth _____.