

JONAH, THE RUNNING PREACHER

A Sermon Outline

Presented to

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Text: Jonah 1:1-4:11

Thesis: To demonstrate the longsuffering of God and His willingness to save mankind.

INTRODUCTION

1. God has always been looking for a way to bring back mankind to Himself.
2. Jonah, a prophet of God was sent to warn and preach to a Gentile city.
3. God demonstrated in His dealings with Jonah that He is willing to go the extra mile to save mankind.
4. In our studies, we shall know that Christians need to periodically examine their spiritual passion to see if we have drifted from God.
5. We shall consider four main things that Jonah did as a running preacher.
 - a. Running from God.
 - b. Running to God.
 - c. Running with God.
 - d. Running ahead of God.

DISCUSSION

- I. RUNNING FROM GOD (Jonah 1:1-17).
 - A. God commissioned Jonah (1:1-2)
 1. God spoke to Jonah His Word.
 2. Jonah was told to preach to the people of Nineveh because God is merciful and did not want them to perish (Jonah 1:2).
 3. He was given a specific instruction on location and the task.
 4. This is similar to the specific commission Jesus gave to His apostles and by extension to all Christians (Mat. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8).
 - B. Jonah rebel against God (Jonah 1:3).
 1. Jonah refused to do what God commanded him (Jonah 1:3)
 2. He went opposite direction of where God told him to go.
 3. He knew he was doing everything possible to disobey the Lord.
 - C. There are consequences for disobeying God not only for us but also those around us (Jonah 1:4-10).
 1. The punishment affected those around Jonah (Jonah 1:4-6).
 - a. They lost their merchandise.
 - b. They may have lost their businesses.

- c. They were scared to death because of the storms.
2. Your secrets shall be uncovered for all to know (Jonah 1:7-10).
3. Even so shall we bring consequences of unrepented sins on our marriages, families, jobs, and those who love us and/or we love.

D. We shall not escape the punishment of God (Jonah 1:11-15).

1. Jonah could disobey God and run away, but he could not hide from God.
2. God demonstrated His sovereignty over His creation by using the storm on the sea to accomplish His purpose.
3. Jonah was finally punished for his disobedience to God by being cast into the sea (Jonah 1:14-15).
4. The end of Jonah at this point shows us that there is nowhere to retreat from the gaze of the Lord (Psa. 139:7).
5. Even death shall not be able to hide mankind from God's judgment (John 5:24-29; Rev. 20:11-15).

E. God the preparer (Jonah 1:16-17).

1. He prepared the day for the people to witness His greatness.
2. He prepared a great fish to house Jonah till he had come to his senses.
3. He made it possible for Jonah to be in the belly for three days and three nights.

II. RUNNING TO GOD (Jonah 2:1-10).

A. There is always something we can do when we go wrong.

1. Jonah came to his senses that there was only one option available for him if he wanted to live, and that was to run back to God.
2. So, Jonah prayed to the Lord (Jonah 2:1).
3. When we are burdened with loads of this life, we must carry the burdens to God in prayer (Phil. 4:6-7).
4. God is always ready to hear us if we would cry to Him, Jonah said, even from the belly of a fish, the Lord heard him (Jonah 2:2).

B. Jonah recognized the handiworks of the Lord (Jonah 2:3-4).

1. Jonah professed the mighty works of God that he recognized (Jonah 2:3).
 - a. That God cast him into the depths.
 - b. That God the sea flooded encompassed him.
 - c. That God has cast him out of His sights

2. God is all powerful to the point of supplying breath of life to man even in the belly of a fish.
3. Jonah also recognized God's compassion even in the midst of His punishment (Jonah 2:4).
4. Jonah took advantage of God's promise that if the children of Israel cry unto Him by looking unto the temple, He will hear them (2 Chron. 6:36-39; 7:12-16, Jonah 2:4).

C. God is merciful (Jonah 2:6-10).

1. Jonah ran to God in time of distresses and hopelessness because of his sins.
2. Jonah thank God for His mercy and compassion (Jonah 2:6).
3. But God who is rich in mercy, heard his prayers (Jonah 2:2, 7-8).
4. Jonah made vows to sacrifice to God for being merciful.
5. God is merciful toward all who come to Him (2 Sam. 24:14-16, Heb. 4:14-16).

D. Jonah points us to Christ from the Old Testament.

1. Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights, so was Christ in the tomb (Jonah 2:5-6; Mat. 12:39-40).
2. God is not a respecter of persons, for He is ready to save anyone who repents and turn to Him (Mat. 12:41).
3. God has given grace period to all mankind through Jesus who is greater than Jonah.

III. RUNNING WITH GOD (Jonah 3:1-10).

A. The Mission of Jonah (Jonah 3:1-2).

1. God did not choose another prophet to do the work He tasked Jonah to day even though Jonah has been traumatized by his experiences (Jonah 3:1).
2. He was to go and preach to the people of Nineveh what God has instructed him to preach (Jonah 3:2).
3. He was not to preach any message that he wished to preach but to speak as the oracles of God and so are we (Jonah 3:2; 2 Tim.4:2-5; 1 Pet. 4:11).
4. Jonah's mission at this point was to a Gentile nation which prove that Gentiles are amenable to God's law from beginning of time.
5. This is to say that mankind is accountable to God and not only those in covenant relationship with Him.

B. The obedience of Jonah (Jonah 3:3-4).

1. Jonah obeyed God's commandment which came to him the second

time.

2. The preaching of Jonah was straight and clear; “he cried, and said, yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown” (Jonah 3:4).
3. Jonah had learned from his previous experiences from disobeying God and so went to Nineveh as God commanded.
4. We must not wait to encounter such activities of God’s wrath before we become obedient to His word.
5. If Jonah had not preached to the city, they would not have heard God’s message, and neither would they have known the truth, in like manner if we do not preach the gospel in our time, people will not know the truth but perish in their sins and ignorance (John 8:32).

C. The repentance of Nineveh (Jonah 3:5-9).

1. The people of Nineveh heard the message of the Lord which rebuked them of the wickedness in their lands.
2. They worked toward genuine repentance because they turned from their evil ways of living.
3. They did not only run from the wrath that was coming on them but bore fruits of repentance (Jonah 3:5-6; Mat. 3:5-8).
4. Their king proclaimed a fast, left his throne and put on sackcloth which indicate that they left their comfort zone of sinning to turn to God (Jonah 3:6-8).
5. The repentance of the people of Nineveh proves that people can change, and they can turn to God.

D. The relent of God (Jonah 3:10).

1. God is, indeed, not a respecter of persons because in every nation He is willing to save those who are obedient to Him (Jonah 3:10; Acts 10:34-35).
2. God does not delight in the death of sinners, that is why He relented from the doom that was coming on the wickedness of the men of Nineveh (Ezek. 33:10-11).
3. God desires that we turn from darkness to Light, and from the power of Satan to God (Acts 26:18).
4. God is waiting that we may preach to turn people from the wrath to come (2 Pet. 3:9).

IV. RUNNING AHEAD OF GOD (Jonah 4:1-11).

A. The anger of Jonah (Jonah 4:1-3).

1. Jonah was displeased and became extremely angry that God had saved the people of Nineveh (Jonah 4:1).
2. Jonah's anger was out of hatred for the people of Nineveh; in that instead of hating the sin in the people, he hated the sin and the people.
3. Jonah knew the mercifulness of God therefore he refused to preach for the people to have an opportunity to God's mercy (Jonah 4:2).
4. Jonah cried for God to take his life because God spared the Ninevites.

B. God justifies His mercy toward the repented ones.

1. God questioned Jonah about his compassion for fellow human beings.
2. He is a God of second chances; He was merciful to Jonah to give him a second chance and so was He to the people of Nineveh (Jonah 3:1, 4:11).
3. God forgiveness reveals His loving kindness to all men.
4. He had pity on both human and animals which proves that He does not delight in destroying His creation.
5. However, He will destroy those who do not take advantage of His saving grace now.

CONCLUSION

1. In this lesson we have studied that Jonah who was selected to preach to the people ended up.
 - a. Running away from God by disobeying God (Jonah 1).
 - b. Running to God by praying for deliverance (Jonah 2).
 - c. Running with God by doing what God wanted him to do (Jonah 3).
 - d. Running ahead of God by becoming angry with God (Jonah 4).
2. Jonah was selected to preach to Gentile nationals on whom God's wrath was coming which indicate that those who are in the world can only save through the gospel.
3. Christians must know that without the gospel God's power to save will not be exercised (Rom. 1:16).
4. The Ninevites were saved because they return to God by repenting from their sins and reaching out to God in fasting and prayers.
5. We can return to Him by following His steps of salvation.
 - a. Believe the gospel (John 8:24).
 - b. Repent and turn toward the Lord (Acts 2:38, 3:19, Acts 26:16-18).
 - c. Confess the Lord Jesus. (Acts 8:37).
 - d. Be baptized (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 5:21; Acts 2:38).