

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

Jonah believed in the power of his own free will. So much so that when the LORD commanded him to go to Nineveh and preach, he, acting according to his corrupt nature, bought a ticket on a ship going the opposite way to Tarshish. Jonah was confident in his own ability to circumvent the will of GOD. Little did he know that he was actually traveling in the exact path which the LORD had marked out for him, nor did he know the mode of transportation which would ultimately take him to the city which the LORD had appointed for him to go. Not long after he paid the fare to Tarshish and settled in for a comfortable voyage falling fast asleep, the LORD sent a tempest which threatened to destroy the vessel he was riding in. The men in the ship, according to their superstition, cast Jonah overboard. I am sure that he was certain that he would drown in those storm tossed waters, yet the LORD had prepared a huge fish and put it in the right place at the right time to swallow him. His salvation from drowning was not at all what he pictured and the horrors that gripped him in this designed life preserver could not have been anticipated. Many free will advocates will opine that Jonah could have gone directly to Nineveh and avoided this trial, yet it was necessary that he be in that fish, because it was necessary that he might be used as an illustration of the resurrection of JESUS CHRIST from the dead. *“For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”* As a child of GOD, it was necessary that he be brought to the end of himself, confessing, *“Salvation is of the LORD.”* Thus the LORD sent Jonah to Nineveh to preach unto those who dwelt there.

We read in Paul’s epistle to the Romans of those whom the LORD will send, to bring the glad tidings of the gospel to those HE has predestined to receive it. *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”* We see this manifested as Paul and Barnabas were “sent” to preach to the Gentiles in Antioch. *“And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.”*

Those whom the LORD sends are sinners just like those to whom they are sent. *“We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein.”* Let none be lifted up with pride. *“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”* For this reason, the men whom the LORD sends are often *“ignorant and unlearned men”*. *“And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.”*

The LORD sends men to preach in order to confound some men as well as to illuminate others. *“For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?”* *“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”* Those whom the LORD sends have but one message. *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”* *“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”* *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”*

Those whom the LORD sends must do HIS bidding; they are not free to do otherwise. *“For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”* They are not chosen by men for this task but rather compelled by the SPIRIT. No one can prevent that which the LORD is pleased to ordain to occur. *“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”* *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”* Have you heard HIS WORD?

Thy free grace alone, #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net**