

“Be Ye Doers Of The Word!”
Jonah 1:3

Introduction:

1. Let's Return To Our Study Of The Book Of Jonah This Morning!
 - If You Were Here Last Sunday:
 - We Looked At The Mission Of God!
 - That We Find In The First 2 Verses Of Jonah, And That Runs Throughout The Rest Of The Book!
 - The Mission:
 - To Seek & To Save That Which Was Lost!
 - And Then God Called On One Of His Prophets:
 - Jonah – To Go On His Mission To The People Of Nineveh!
 - God Told Jonah In 1:2:
 - To Arise! To Go! And To Cry & To Preach God's Word To Them!
2. Now, We Would Expect An Old Testament Prophet Of God:
 - To Do Just That!
 - To Obey God's Word & To Do God's Will!
 - In 1 Kings 17:
 - God Told Another Prophet – Named Elijah:
 - To Arise & To Go!
 - And Elijah, The Bible Says:
 - “Arose & Went!”
 - In Jeremiah 13:
 - God Told The Prophet Jeremiah:
 - To Arise & To Go!
 - And Jeremiah, The Bible Says:
 - “Went!” – He Arose & He Went!
 - When These Prophets Heard The Word Of God:
 - They Obeyed The Word Of God!
 - And This Was The Expectation Of Every Prophet!
3. But When We Come To Jonah 1:3 – Our Text For This Morning:
 - What Do We Learn About Jonah?
 - After God Told Him:
 - To Arise! To Go! And To Cry & To Preach God's Word To The People Of That “Great & Wicked City” Of Nineveh?
 - 1:3 - “But Jonah rose up (Not To Go & To Obey, But) to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD!”
 - Jonah – What Are You Doing?
 - Did You Not Hear What God Said?
 - Do You Not Understand God's Mission?
 - But: Jonah Heard God's Word Clearly!
 - And Jonah Understood God's Will Completely!
 - And Instead Of Submission & Obedience, Jonah Chose To Defy God's Word & Disobey God's Will!
4. I Want Us To Learn This Morning:
 - That: ***The Word Of God Always Demands A Response!***
 - When God Spoke To Jonah In 1:1-2, It Demanded A Response From Jonah!
 - He Could Have & He Should Have:
 - Responded With Submission & Obedience!
 - This Was The Expected Response Of A Prophet Of God!
 - Like Elijah & Jeremiah!
 - But Instead He:
 - Responded With Defiance & Disobedience!
 - And This Was & Is A Shocking Response From One Of God's Prophets!
 - ***The Word Of God Always Demands A Response!***
 - How Do You Respond To The Word Of God?

- Do You Respond With:
 - Submission & Obedience Whenever You Hear God's Word?
 - This Is The Expected Response Of God's People!
- Or, Do You Respond Like Jonah? In:
 - Defiance & Disobedience When You Hear God's Word?
 - This Should Be A Shocking Response To God's People!
- How Do You Respond To The Word Of God?
 - James 1:22 Tells Us What We Are To Do With God's Word:
 - "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves!"
 - Jonah Was Just A Hearer Of God's Word!
 - And Not A Doer!
 - And He Deceived Himself!
 - And As We Look More Closely Into Jonah's Response To God's Word:
 - We Need To See What The Nature Of Disobedience Really Is:
 - So That We Will Be "Doers Of The Word, And Not Hearers Only!"
- So: Just What Is Disobedience To God Really Like?

* We Learn From Jonah That:

1. *Disobedience Is Always Deliberate!*

- Disobedience To God's Word:
 - Is Not Just An Accident Or A Mistake!
 - Is Never Just A "Stumbling" Or Falling Into Sin!
 - No - Disobedience Is Always Deliberate!
 - Disobedience To God's Word Is:
- A Deliberate Choice!
 - See This In Jonah's Response To God's Word!
 - 1:3 - "But Jonah Rose Up To Flee Unto Tarshish!"
 - Might Ask Ourselves:
 - Did Jonah Hear God's Word Clearly?
 - After All, It Would Seem He Completely Misunderstood God, Because He Does The Exact Opposite!
 - But No – Jonah Did Hear God's Word To Him Clearly!
 - And Jonah Did Understand God's Will Completely!
 - Because When God Told Him To:
 - "Arise!"
 - Jonah, In Fact, "Rose Up!"
 - God Did Get Jonah's Attention – When He Said "Arise!"
 - God Did Stir Jonah Up To Action!
 - And So, Jonah Did Obey The First Command God Gave Him – To "Arise" – But That Was It!
 - Then: Jonah Completely Disregarded & Disobeyed:
 - The Rest Of God's Commands To Him!
 - And He Made A Deliberate Choice To Disobey The Word Of God!
 - Disobedience To God's Word Is:
 - Always A Deliberate Choice! But It Is Also:
- A Deliberate Contempt!
 - See This Also In Jonah's Response To God's Word!
 - Because When He "Rose Up" – He Did So:
 - "To Flee!"
 - "To Flee" Here Shows Us How He Disregarded & Disobeyed God's Word:
 - He Bolted Out Of There!
 - Wherever He Was, He Got Out Of There As Fast As He Possibly Could!
 - **IE:** Like A "Bolt" Shot Out Of Braden's Crossbow! Better Get Out & Stay Out Of The Way, As It Makes A Bee-Line For Its Target!
 - Jonah Was Disgusted With The Word Of God & Mission Of God He Was Given!
 - And He Displayed That When He Fled!
 - Look At The Determination He Had!
 - Not To Obey – But To Disobey God!
 - Nothing Was Going To Get In His Way:

- So That He Could Accomplish His Own Will! Not God's Will!
- Look At The Distance He Went!
 - He Was Going To Flee All The Way "Unto Tarshish!"
 - Not Too Certain Where Tarshish Was, But Many Who Have Looked Into This Believe Tarshish Was The Ancient Region Of Tartessos, Which Was Clear Across The Mediterranean Sea, Beyond The Straits Of Gibraltar, And On The West Side Of Spain – Over 2,000 Miles Away By Ship!
- Jonah Wanted To Go To The Furthest Place He Could Think Of!
 - Why? To Get Away From The Word Of God!
- Disobedience Is Always Deliberate!
 - A Deliberate Choice & Even A Deliberate Contempt Of God And His Word!
 - Think About Your Own Sins & Disobedience!
 - How Determined Are You To Disobey?
 - What Distance Will You Go To Disregard God's Word To You?
 - Whenever You Respond To God's Word In This Way:
 - It Is Not Just An Accident Or A Mistake!
 - It Is Not Just A Stumbling Or A Falling Into Sin!
 - No - You Need To See Your Disobedience For What It Is!
 - It Is Always A Deliberate Choice & Contempt!
 - And That Is Serious! Need To Repent & Confess!
 - Remember James 1:22 - "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves!"
 - What Else Is Disobedience Like?

2. ***Disobedience Is Always Deceptive!***

- What Was Jonah Thinking When He Got Up & Fled?
 - Find This Twice In 1:3 - Jonah Was Fleeing:
 - "From The Presence Of The Lord!"
 - Jonah Believed He Could Get Away From God & His Word!
 - But Was His Thinking Fact Or Fantasy?
- The Fact Of God's Presence:
 - Jonah Was Actually Acting Irrationally, Because He Knew The Truth About The Presence Of God!
 - Remember In 1:2 - God Told Jonah That:
 - The Wickedness Of Jonah Had Come Up Before Him! It Had Literally Gotten In His Face!
 - If Nineveh & Its Wickedness Could Not Escape:
 - The Presence Of God:
 - Why Did Jonah Think He Could Escape:
 - The Presence Of God With His Own Wickedness & Disobedience?
 - The Fact Is – He Couldn't! And He Didn't!
 - Jonah Would Also Have Known The Truth Of God's Presence From Verses Like:
 - Proverbs 15:3 - "The Eyes Of The Lord Are In Every Place, Beholding The Evil And The Good!"
 - Jonah Was Living:
- The Fantasy Of God's Presence:
 - He Chose To Live His Life As If The Presence Of God Was Not A Fact – Was Not True!
 - He Thought That If He Left Israel, He Could Actually Escape The Influence & Presence Of God!
 - **IE:** Like A Radio Losing The Signal The Further You Get Away From The Source / The Transmitter!
 - But This Was Just A Fantasy!
 - Jonah Was Deceiving Himself!
 - And This Is What Always Happens When You Chose To Disregard & Disobey God's Word!
- Disobedience Is Always Deceptive!
 - James 1:22 - "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves!"
 - When You Disregard & Disobey God's Word:
 - You Are Living In A Fantasy World!
 - You Are Living A Lie!
 - You Are Deceiving Yourself!
 - About The Truth Of God!
 - And This Is What Disobedience Is Always Like!
 - How Do You Respond To The Word Of God?

3. ***Disobedience Is Always Desertion!***

- As Soon As Jonah Left The Place Where He Received God's Word:
 - And Started Heading In The Opposite Direction!
 - He Was A Deserter! He Went AWOL!
 - Absent Without Leave!
 - He Left His Office & He Forsook His Duty!
 - And We Need To Realize That This Is What Sin Is Like:
 - For Every Child Of God!
 - Jonah Wanted To Do His Own Will & Go His Own Way!
 - Instead Of Doing God's Will & Go God's Way!
 - And This Is, As We Will Soon See, A Very Dangerous Game To Play!
 - Look At The Lengths Jonah Was Willing To Go:
 - To Disobey The Word Of God!
 - Look At:
- The Place He Was Willing To Go!
 - "And Went Down To Joppa!"
 - Today, Joppa Is A Suburb Of The City Of Tel Aviv In Israel!
 - But In Jonah's Day, Joppa Was Probably Not Under The Control Of God's People – Either Israel Or Judah!
 - Jonah Was Already Willing To Go:
 - To A Place That He Believed Was Far From The Presence & Influence Of God!
 - And For Jonah, It Was A Step In The Right Direction – But Just Not Far Enough!
 - Look At:
- The Plan He Was Willing To Make!
 - "And He Found A Ship Going To Tarshish!"
 - Jonah Found What He Was Looking For:
 - To Help Him Further Along In His Disobedience!
 - William Banks - "When A Person Decides To Run From The Lord, Satan Always Provides Complete Transportation Facilities!"
 - When He Found This Ship:
 - It Appears From This Verse, That The Ship Was Probably Just About Ready To Set Sail!
 - And Jonah Had To Act Quickly!
 - And So He Acted Impulsively!
 - He Let His Own Flesh Direct His Path, Instead Of The Will & Word Of God!
 - What A Wild Ride Life Is:
 - When We Live This Way! Look At:
- The Price He Was Willing To Pay!
 - "So He Paid The Fare Thereof!"
 - This Would Not Have Been An Inexpensive Trip!
 - Even If He Was Just One Of Many Passengers!
 - But This "Fare" That He Paid:
 - Could Also Indicate That He Paid For The Use Of The Entire Ship To Get Him Away From God's Presence & His Word!
 - Whatever The Case, Jonah Put His Treasure Where His Heart Was!
 - His Heart Was Already Far From God, And Now He Was Even Willing To Make A Great Sacrifice Of His Own Money To Follow His Heart!
 - Sin Is Always So Expensive! Too Expensive!
 - Jonah Was Willing To Sacrifice For His Sin!
 - Which Is Why We Find In 1 Samuel 15:22 - "To obey is better than sacrifice!"
- Disobedience Is Always Desertion!
 - Look At The Commitment Jonah Had To His Sin!
 - The Places He Was Willing To Go!
 - The Plans He Was Willing To Make!
 - The Price He Was Willing To Pay!
 - Rick Phillips - ***"Sin Always Takes Us Farther Than We Imagined We Would Go, Faster Than We Ever Intended!"***
 - As Soon As Jonah Pays The Fare:
 - We Want To Cry Out:

- Turn Back, Jonah! Turn Back!
- “It Is A Fearful Thing To Fall Into The Hand Of The Living God!” (Hebrews 10:31)
- But Jonah Persisted In His Disobedience!
- The “Point Of No Return” Had Been Crossed!
- How Do You Respond To The Word Of God?
- When You Disobey:
 - You Are Starting On A Wild Ride That Will Only End In Despair!
- You Are A Deserter!
 - From The Word & The Will Of God!
- James 1:22 - “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves!”

4. ***Disobedience Is Always Declining!***

- Sin Never Stays In One Place For Very Long!
 - Now, Look At:
- A Decline In The Commitment Made:
 - Jonah “Went Down Into” The Ship!
 - Imagine Him: Leaving The Shore / Walking The Gangplank / Feet Now On The Deck / Walking Alone Down The Steps Into The Bowels Of The Ship / Dark & Damp With Odors & Strangers / All Symbols Of The Consequences Of His Sin / The Hatch Closes / The Anchor Is Weighed / The Ship Sets Sail / Home Fades Away Into The Background / It Is Done / No Turning Back Now!
 - Tempted To Say: Jonah, What Have You Done?
 - But: “We Must Recognize That The Same Impulse Is Found In All Of Our Hearts: Flight From Obedience To God And Flight From Service Of Our Lord!” (BE)
 - What Are You Doing When You Sin & Disobey God’s Word?
 - It Can Never & Will Never End Well!
 - James 1:14-16 - “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. / Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. / Do not err, my beloved brethren!”
- A Decline In The Company Kept:
 - “To Go With Them Unto Tarshish!”
 - He Didn’t Want To Go To The Wicked Pagans In Nineveh!
 - But He Was Perfectly Content To Go With Some Wicked Pagans To Tarshish!
 - Jonah Could Have Been Aligned With God & His Grand Mission:
 - To Nineveh!
 - But Instead He Aligned Himself With These Pagan Sailors & Their Mission To Tarshish!
 - Think About Who You Are Aligning Yourself With:
 - When You Sin & Disobey God!
 - The Company You Keep!
- Disobedience Is Always Declining!
 - It Will Never End Where You Think & Hope It Might End!
 - James 1:22 - “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves!”

Conclusion:

1. Jonah’s Ultimate Goal Was To Go:
 - “From The Presence Of The Lord!”
 - Even Though He Knew This Was Not Possible!
 - And This Is So Often The Case For Us As Well!
 - We Try Ignore:
 - The Word Of God!
 - Prayer To God!
 - The Church Of God!
 - Thinking That If We Just Suppress The Truth Of God’s Presence In Our Minds:
 - God Will Leave Us Alone!
 - If This Is The Case:
 - You Are Deceiving Yourself & Living In A Fantasy World!
2. Are You Just A Hearer Of The Word & Not A Doer?
 - Are You Disobedient To God & His Word & His Mission?
 - Then This Is What Your Disobedience Is Really Like:

- It Is Always Deliberate!
 - It Is Always Deceptive!
 - It Is Always Desertion!
 - It Is Always Declining!
 - And When You See Your Sin & Disobedience For What It Is:
 - There Is Hope!
 - Because - Remember - There Is One Who Is “Greater Than Jonah!”
 - And He Is The One Who “Was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin!”
3. You Can Go To The Sinless One – The Lord Jesus Christ!
- For Forgiveness From Your Disobedience!
 - For Freedom For Your Sin!
 - And For The Grace & Help You Need To Become A “Doer” Of The Word And Not Just A “Hearer!”
 - ***The Word Of God Always Demands A Response!***
 - How Will You Respond Today?

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