

“AND AS FOR ME,...”

Part 8: “The Message of God Saves”

JONAH 3:1-10

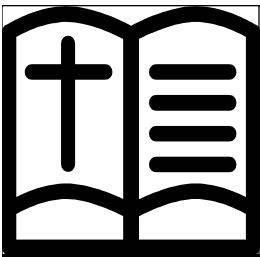
I. A SECOND CHANCE TO GET IT RIGHT

A. God speaks to Jonah a second time

1. God is not finished with His message of compassion for those living in Nineveh
2. God is not finished making a leader - “...that great city...” God has just demonstrated His power over everything man could fear. The challenge of a big city may be considerable to a man alone but it is no different than a small challenge to the man with whom God resides!
3. God is not finished with His prophet - “We are immortal until our work on earth is done” - George Whitefield
4. If you messed up and got swallowed by the fish of doubt and discouragement, repent

B. God gives the prophet specific instructions

1. “Arise...” There must be an actual initiative to get going. No pity party. It is an intentional action; a purposeful action; a starting step. It is getting out of the comfort zone. It initiates the momentum.
2. “...go to...” Every journey begins with the first step. It is a targeted action—there is a destination. Once started, the rest is just putting one foot in front of the other, one step at a time.



3. “...preach to it the message that I tell you.” We are co-laborers with God not co-creators. The message Jonah was to preach was what God told him, not more, not less. God honors His word not our imaginations. He was not free to add anything to God’s message

II. THE RELUCTANT PROPHET OBEYS THE COMMAND

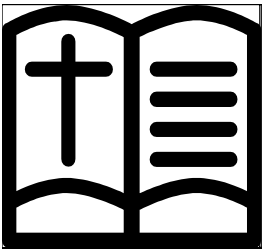
- A. He gets up and goes. Spending some time in Sheol can teach a good lesson. He had his time out. His reluctance hasn’t changed but his obedience has.
- B. The walk alone with God builds his courage. We need alone time with God
- C. His message is short but effective. He is working with God not for God. He speaks only God’s message and God blesses it with divine, convicting power

III. THE PEOPLE RESPOND TO HIS MESSAGE

- A. It is immediate
- B. It is thorough and full of humility
- C. It is hopeful but not certain - maybe He will...
- D. These are Gentiles without the law of Moses. They turned from their evil way and from their violence. How did they know from what to turn?

IV. GOD RESPONDS TO THE PEOPLE Psalm 50:16-23

- A. God saves them by His grace through faith
- B. He sees authentic humility in their attitude
- C. He sees authentic repentance in their works
- D. They believed God but they did not become Israel



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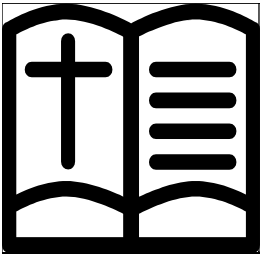
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