

“Bringing Dark Things To Light!”
Jonah 1:7-10

Introduction:

1. We Are Going To Head Back To Jonah This Morning:
 - Jonah Chapter 1!
 - Where, We Last Saw Jonah In The “Sides Of The Ship” Sleeping:
 - And He Was Suddenly Awakened By The Ship-Master!
 - And The Words Jonah Heard Were These In 1:6:
 - “What Meanest Thou, O Sleeper? Arise, Call Upon Thy God!”
 - And It Was Through These Words:
 - That God Himself Was Starting To Bring His Prophet Back To Himself!
2. Now, Imagine With Me For A Moment:
 - After Being So Rudely Awakened From His Deep Sleep:
 - Jonah - Rubbing His Eyes - And Trying To Get On His Feet - And Then Following The Ship-Master Up To The Deck Of The Ship!
 - He Thought He Had Heard An Echo From God!
 - When God Called Him To Go To Nineveh:
 - He Said: “Arise & Go & Cry!” (1:2)
 - When The Ship-Master Called Him To Get Up & Pray To His God:
 - He Said: “Arise & Cry & Call Upon Thy God!”
 - And Now, Jonah Was Left The Dark Regions Of The Ship:
 - And Started To Stumble Up The Steps And Into The Light!
3. This Is What God Was Doing With Jonah’s Sin!
 - He Was Starting To Bring The Darkness Of Jonah’s Sin Into The Light!
 - So He Could Deal With Jonah & His Sin!
 - So Jonah Would Repent & Return To The Lord!
 - And So He Could Use Jonah Again In His Service!
 - And This Is What God Will Eventually Do With Your Sin:
 - And My Sin As Well!
 - He Will: “Bring To Light The Hidden Things Of Darkness!” (1 Corinthians 4:5)
 - But The Question I Want Us To Consider This Morning Is:
 - ***When Will You Leave The Darkness Behind & Walk In The Light?***
 - It Took A Lot To Get Jonah’s Attention!
 - But, Finally He Did - And Jonah Repented & Returned To The Lord! He Left The Darkness & Walked Once Again In God’s Light!
 - And In 1:7-10 - We See The Process God Used:
 - To “Bring To Light The Hidden Things Of [Jonah’s] Darkness!”
 - 1:7-10 - “And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. / Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou? / And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land. / Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them!”
 - How Does God Bring Dark Things – Like Jonah’s Sin – To Light?
 - First, See:

1. *The Excuses For Sin!*

- The Excuses For Sin Must Stop!
 - And You Must Stop Avoiding The Light!
 - When Jonah Was Sleeping In The Hull Of The Ship:
 - He Was Trying To Avoid – Not Just The Light Of The Outside – But The Light Of God’s Presence!
 - But When He Was Suddenly Awakened:
 - He Found That He Was Not The Only One Trying To Avoid The Light Of Truth!
 - This Is What He Found Going On In The Ship:
 - 1:7 - “And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause

- And God Even Used Their Superstition To Expose The Sin Of Jonah!
- Last Part Of 1:7 Says Abruptly:
 - “And The Lot Fell Upon Jonah!”
 - Jonah & His Sin Was Exposed!
- Exposed By God!
 - God Himself:
 - Through This Lot & Through These Sailors, Points His Finger Right At The Heart Of Jonah And Says:
 - “Thou Art The Man!”
 - The Prosecutor & The Judge:
 - Has Spoken! Publically & Openly! And The Case Is Closed!
 - Jonah Is “Guilty As Charged!”
 - God Knew!
 - Jonah Knew!
 - And Now, Everyone Knew!
 - Even Though Jonah Tried To Keep His Sin Silent & Hidden!
 - We Must All Realize That:
 - We Cannot Hide / Conceal Our Sins:
 - From God! From Others! For Long!
 - Numbers 32:23 - “Behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out!”
 - God Will Surely Detect & Expose Your Sin!
 - Do Not Live Like Your Darkness Will Never Be Brought To Light!
 - Psalm 90:8 - “Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance!”
 - We Might Think That This Is The Absolute Worst Thing That Could Happen!
 - But We Also See From This That Sin Is Always:
- Exposed For Good!
 - Although Jonah Probably Felt:
 - Shame & Embarrassment & Fear!
 - Because Of His Discovery!
 - He Must Also Have Felt A Sense Of Relief!
 - He Could Hide No Longer!
 - He Could Run No Further!
 - He Could Excuse Himself No More!
 - But Now There Was Hope!
 - There Was A “Fountain” Available “For Sin And For Uncleanness!” – For His Sin & For His Uncleanness!
 - Now There Could Be A “Clearing” Of Himself!
 - If He Would But Repent & Return To The Lord!
- In Order For Dark Things To Be Brought Into The Light:
 - You Need To Let Your Sin Find You Out Now!
 - Don’t Hide Any Longer!
 - Don’t Run Any Further!
 - Don’t Excuse Yourself Any More!
 - And Let God Expose Your Heart & Your Sin:
 - Even To Yourself!
 - You Don’t Have To Wait For It To Be Exposed By Others Or Before Others!
 - Remember Proverbs 28:13 - “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy!”

3. ***The Examination Of Sin!***

- The Examination Of Sin Must Start!
 - As Soon As The Lot Fell On Jonah:
 - The Sailors Started Asking Him Questions!
 - In Rapid Fire!
 - Remember - All While The Storm Is Raging Around Them!
 - All To Find Out What Is Going On & How To Save Their Own Necks!

- 1:8 - "Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou?"
 - Probably The Quickest Investigation In History!
 - Find 6 Questions!
 - And They Are Demanding Answers From Jonah!
 - And The Sailors Must Have Felt Some Relief Too!
 - "Whew! It Wasn't Me!"
 - And Now They Direct Their Attention On Jonah:
 - "Tell Us!"
 - Confess To Us! "We Pray Thee!"
- All Of These Questions:
 - Would Help Them Figure Out What To Do!
- What Is Your Sin, Jonah?
 - What Did You Do?
 - "For Whose Cause This Evil Is Upon Us?"
 - Or - "On What Account?"
 - What Did You Do?
 - For God To Be So Angry With You & To Send Such A Great Calamity Upon Us!
- What Is Your Service, Jonah?
 - "What Is Thine Occupation?"
 - What Do You Do For A Living?
 - They Wanted To Know Anything & Everything, So They Could Figure Out A Solution!
- What Is Your Starting Point, Jonah?
 - "Whence Comest Thou?"
 - Did You Make Someone There Angry?
 - Why Did You Leave In Such A Hurry?
- What Is Your State, Jonah?
 - "What Is Thy Country?"
 - Who Is Your King?
 - And Who Is Your God?
- What Is Your Stock, Jonah?
 - "What People Art Thou?"
 - And Of Course, They Asked All Of These Questions To Jonah:
 - Because They "Did Not Even Know Who He Was!" (RP)
 - Jonah's Light & Witness Had Been Snuffed Out Because Of His Sin!
- What A Difference There Would Have Been:
 - If Jonah Had Examined Himself!
 - And Asked Himself These Questions, Before He Even Set A Foot On The Deck Of That Ship!
 - How Many Questions Do You Ask Yourself:
 - When You Sin Or Are Tempted To Sin Against God?
 - To Find Out The Details!
 - To Discover The When's, The What's, And Especially The Why's!
 - Like Jonathan Edwards - Resolution #24:
 - "Resolved, whenever I do any conspicuously evil action, to trace it back, till I come to the original cause; and then both carefully endeavor to do so no more, and to fight and pray with all my might against the original of it!"
 - 1 Corinthians 11:31 - "For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged!"
 - Don't Wait For Others To Examine You!
 - Examine Yourself! Judge Yourself! Let God Do His Work In Your Heart First!
 - And Ask Yourself Some Questions!
 - Like - What Have You Done? Are About To Do?
 - Who Are You? Who Do You Belong To?
 - And One Last Question Asked By The Sailors:
 - In 1:10 - When They Were "Exceedingly Afraid!"
 - "Why?" "Why Hast Thou Done This?"
 - Need To Ask This Question As Well!
- Pray As David Did:
 - Psalm 26:2 - "Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart!"

4. *The Expression Of Sin!*

- The Expression Of Sin Must Surrender!
 - To The Lord & His Will!
 - By Now, God Had Gotten Jonah's Attention!
 - And Was Working In His Prophet's Heart!
 - And We Begin To See A Heart That Has Repented & Returned & Surrendered To The Lord!
 - See This In The First Words Of Jonah:
 - Recorded For Us In This Book!
- The Words Of Jonah's Answer:
 - His Answer To Their Questions!
 - With Just One Word / One Phrase:
 - Jonah Answers Most Of Their Questions!
 - 1:9 - "And He Said Unto Them, I Am An Hebrew!"
 - Jonah Is No Longer Hiding!
 - No Longer Concealing His Identity!
 - He Tells Them Clearly:
 - Who He Is! Where He's From!
 - This Is One Of The First Signs Of Repentance:
 - And Returning To The Lord!
 - You Are No Longer Ashamed Of Who You Are As A Christian! As A Child Of God!
 - But He Didn't Dwell On This Answer:
 - Although This Is What The Sailors Wanted To Know About Most!
 - Next We See:
- The Words Of Jonah's Admission:
 - In Answer To Their Question:
 - "What Have You Done, Jonah?"
 - But Even This Is Given Very Little Treatment In These Verses!
 - Sort Of As A Side Note, In 1:10 - "For The Men Knew That He Fled From The Presence Of The Lord, Because He Told Them!"
 - Jonah Admitted His Sin & His Guilt!
 - But Even This Was Not His Focus!
 - Not So Much What He Did To Offend!
 - But Who He Offended!
- The Words Of Jonah's Appeal:
 - In Most Jonah's Words To The Sailors:
 - He Doesn't Even Answer Their Questions!
 - Instead, He Reveals What The Lord Has Been Doing In His Heart!
 - Jonah Says: "I Fear The LORD, The God Of Heaven, Which Hath Made The Sea And The Dry Land!"
 - Although This Was Not True Of Jonah:
 - When He Fled From The Presence Of The Lord!
 - This Statement Shows That He Was Repenting:
 - And Returning To The Lord!
 - He Was No Longer Fleeing!
 - Now He Was Found!
 - And Now He Feared & Revered & Worshiped The Lord!
 - And This Is The True Fruit Of Repentance!
 - A Return To The Fear & Worship Of The Lord!
 - And In This Statement:
 - He Gives The Sailors The Answer To The Question They Didn't Even Ask!
 - That The Lord – The One True God:
 - Is In Charge & In Control Of The Sea, As Well As The Land!
 - And He Alone Can Help Them In This Storm!
- Jonah Expressed & Confessed His:
 - Sin And His Savior!
 - He Had Finally Repented!
 - And Returned To The Lord!
 - And Even Pointed Those Sailors:
 - To The Only One Who Could Help Them In Their Time Of Need!

- But There Was Just One More Thing:
 - That Needed To Be Done!
 - One More Proof & Evidence Of Jonah's True Faith & Repentance!
 - And We Will Save That For Next Time!

Conclusion:

1. But What About Your Sin?
 - If You Are Not A Christian:
 - Know That God Has Seen Your Sin!
 - And Will Punish You For Your Sin!
 - If You Do Not Repent & Turn To The Lord Jesus For Salvation!
 - Yet If You Are A Christian:
 - Know Still That God Sees Your Sin!
 - And The Punishment For That Sin Has Already Been Accomplished!
 - Now:
 - You Need To Stop Making Excuses!
 - You Need To Let God Shine The Light:
 - On Your Heart & Your Sin!
 - Let Him Expose It To You!
 - You Need To Examine Yourself!
 - And When You Do:
 - Ask Yourself One More Question!
 - That The Sailors Did Not Ask!
 - "What Will You Do?"
 - With Your Disobedience & Your Sin!
 - Proverbs 28:13 - "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy!"
 - So - 1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness!"

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