

ENTRUSTING TRUTH



Jonah 3:1 – 3:9

Jonah Three

After his watery detour, Jonah finally arrives at Nineveh. If you look at the map in the introduction, you'll realize that getting there was not a quick trip. As you read through this section of the book, note how the responses of the people in Nineveh compare and contrast with other actors in the book.

The focus this week is on the third section of your outline or if you did not outline the book, 3:1-9.

Today's Assignment:

By now you know the drill. Read the section.

We have talked a lot about repetition. What is repeated here that connects this section of Jonah to the rest of the book?

“Now the Word of the Lord came to Jonah” – a second time

“Arise go to Nineveh the great city” – and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you

Are there differences in the way the repeated thoughts are presented? For example, are there changes in the wording that somewhat alter the repeated element? If so, what are the implications of that alteration?

The second half of both of the repeated elements is different. It is emphasized that the word came to Jonah a second time. That seems to imply patience or forbearance of the Lord toward Jonah. Which is the whole point of the book. The Lord is demonstrating to Jonah by His patience with him the probability that Jonah is correct, He will have mercy on Nineveh.

In the second instance the Lord tells Jonah He will tell him the message. That may imply that Jonah did not know the complete message the first time. Here the Lord tells him to go and will reveal the specifics of the

What are the implications of that repetition and any differences?

See above

Jonah 1:1-16

Tuesday

As you read the passage today notice how the people of Nineveh are described – compare that to Jonah’s action. What are the differences? What if any significance could you draw from this?

The people “believed in God,” They called a fast, and put on sackcloth. Their reaction reminds me of PS 51. When the King heard about this he did the same thing.

As you read through the passage today note the sequence of the events. Does this sequence have any significance? Can you think of other places in the scripture that this sequence has occurred?

The sequence is rebuke, and then immediate repentance. David’s response to Nathan was similar. He completely repented.

Wednesday

Read the passage again today.

The people of Nineveh are hoping that the Lord will relent. How does that hope square with your understanding of how God works? It has in it the expectation or hope that God will change His mind. Yet the book in its whole demonstrates the sovereignty of God. Do these ideas conflict? If not; why not? If they do conflict, how do you reconcile that with the notion that God does not change?

Since God’s knowledge is not sequential, He knew all of these events from the beginning. He used Jonah to bring about what He knew would happen.

Thursday

We just finished a sermon series on James. James 1:22 says: “But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.” We are exhorted to make sure that when we read or study the Word of God that we do or apply it. Paul tells us in Romans 15:4: “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” In 2 Timothy 3:14-17, Paul reminds us: “You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

In the New Testament, especially in the letters, application is somewhat easier; there are directives and commands to which we can respond. Here though, application may not be as clear. Yet Paul’s expectation is that Jonah and other Old Testament passages should instruct, reprove, correct, and train us.

Jonah 1:1-16

In order to apply what we are learning in Jonah, read through this section again and ask yourself if there are attitudes reflected in the players in the book that reflect your attitude or should reflect it. For instance, are there areas in which you are resisting God? When you are rebuked, do you respond as the people of Nineveh? When you encounter God in a new way is your response like the men in the ship? Are there aspects of God's nature and character revealed in this book with which you have struggles?

Pray through these and others you may think of and write out how you feel led to respond? What can you do to make that response concrete this week? Share your application with one whom you are walking with in this journey with Christ.

Friday

Read through the section one more time, at least.

Write out your five word or less description of the passage. What verse captures this idea best in your opinion; why not commit that verse to memory this week?

Rebuke and Response – 3:9

If you have unresolved questions make a note of them here.

Sermon Notes

Sunday School Notes

Small Group Notes


Jonah

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1:1	The word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying,	
1:2	“Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.”	Reason – Substantiation – the reason that Jonah was sent to Nineveh was the wickedness of the city. In what sense had the wickedness come up before the Lord?
1:3	But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish	 <p>Note the immediate contrast with God’s desire... From the map Jonah goes in the opposite direction that which he was commanded Note the Repetition of “from the presence of the Lord” Jonah does not want to be in the Lord’s presence – why not? Note the verb Sequence – Went down, found, paid, went down... He expended effort and money to do opposite to what the Lord wanted him to do</p>
So he	went down to Joppa,	
	found a ship which was going to Tarshish,	
	paid the fare and	
	went down into it	
	to go with them to Tarshish	
	from the presence of the Lord.	
1:4	The Lord hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea	Note the actor here is the Lord – verb is hurled – action the sense is violent action Causation – the cause is the wind the effect is the storm and the ship about to break up... The Lord has control over the wind and consequently the ship.
so that	the ship was about to break up.	
1:5	Then the sailors became afraid	Further Causation as a result of the ship’s danger the sailors responded appropriately note the sequence became afraid, cried, threw Purpose to lighten the ship. This has the ring of truth to it. It is what one would expect sailors to do.
	and every man cried to his god,	
	and they threw the cargo which was in the ship into the sea	
	to lighten it for them.	

	<p>But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down and fallen sound asleep.</p>	<p>Contrast with the sailors actions:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Jonah</td> <td>Sailors</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gone Below</td> <td>Became Afraid</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lain Down</td> <td>Cried to god</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fallen sound Asleep</td> <td>Threw Cargo Overboard</td> </tr> </table> <p>Jonah was not concerned with the storm.</p>	Jonah	Sailors	Gone Below	Became Afraid	Lain Down	Cried to god	Fallen sound Asleep	Threw Cargo Overboard
Jonah	Sailors									
Gone Below	Became Afraid									
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1:6	<p>So the captain approached him and said, “How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps your god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish.”</p>	<p>Causation – as a result of what the contrast between his men and Jonah he came to him with a question. Captain marveled that he was asleep..</p> <p>Implied Conditional If you call then he might</p>								

Note that the caption is calling on the very attribute of God that Jonah is running from. Side comment. The prophecy against Nineveh was a demonstration of God’s compassion. He was warning them to repent. Which, as we see later in the text, they did.

1:7	<p>Each man said to his mate, “Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity has struck us.” So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.</p>	
1:8	<p>Then they said to him, “Tell us, now! On whose account has this calamity struck us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”</p>	
1:9	<p>He said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land.”</p>	
1:10	<p>Then the men became extremely frightened and they said to him, “How could you do this?” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.</p>	<p>Note fleeing from presence of the Lord is repeated again.</p>

Note that Jonah had told them what he was doing. This set them up for their response to the Lord when what he told them to do worked.

1:11	<p>So they said to him, “What should we do to you that the sea may become calm for us?”—for the sea was becoming increasingly stormy.</p>	
1:12	<p>He said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will become calm for you, for I know that on account of me this great storm has come upon you.”</p>	<p>It is interesting that Jonah knows what to do to solve the problem. It is almost like he expected this to happen...</p>
1:13	<p>However, the men rowed desperately to return to land but they could not, for the sea was becoming even stormier against them.</p>	<p>Contrast – Note here the contrast between the sailors and Jonah. They had compassion on Jonah and wished to save him and they were not servants of God while Jonah who was a servant and under orders to warn Nineveh was running away from that responsibility</p>

1:14	Then they called on the Lord and said, “We earnestly pray, O Lord, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life and do not put innocent blood on us; for You, O Lord, have done as You have pleased.”	Causation – Cause the storm increases = effect they resolve to do what Jonah asks – but they do not want to. The contrast between their hearts and Jonah’s is highlighted yet again. This is key – as a result of Jonah’s running from the Lord the sailors recognize the sovereignty of God.
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Note that they are calling out to God – They are calling on the Lord’s compassion and this is what Jonah is running from – it also parallels the reaction of the King and people of Nineveh below...

1:15	So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.	Parallels to Christ on the Sea of Galilee
1:16	Then the men feared the Lord greatly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.	Note the evangelistic nature of this story. Even in running from God Jonah had a ministry to his shipmates. These men feared the Lord that Jonah did not fear running away from.

Note the comparison to Matthew 8:24-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

1:17	And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.	The Lord appointed causation – the result of God’s appointment of the fish
2:1	Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the stomach of the fish,	Causation, temporal, sequence – as a result of being in the fish he prayed. Brings to mind Hebrews 12:8 – 11 God disciplines us for our good
2:2	and he said, “I called out of my distress to the Lord, And He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice.	His distress was in a large part self inflicted
2:3	“For You had cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the current engulfed me. All Your breakers and billows passed over me.	
2:4	“So I said, ‘I have been expelled from Your sight.	Interesting that Jonah here says he was expelled from God’s sight but it was his objective to run from the presence of the Lord.

	Nevertheless I will look again toward Your holy temple.’	Irony – nevertheless? He is the one who was running from the Lord Devotionally – this is a lot like what I do. I get myself in situations that are difficult because of my rebellion against God and then expect and ask Him to deliver me from what I have created by my disobedience. It is a measure of His grace, mercy, and lovingkindness that He does answer those sorts of prayers.
2:5	“Water encompassed me to the point of death. The great deep engulfed me, Weeds were wrapped around my head.	Graphic
2:6	“I descended to the roots of the mountains. The earth with its bars was around me forever, But You have brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God.	
2:7	“While I was fainting away, I remembered the Lord, And my prayer came to You, Into Your holy temple.	
2:8	“Those who regard vain idols Forsake their faithfulness,	
2:9	But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving, That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the Lord.”	Salvation is from the Lord – This is one of the keys to the book
2:10	Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.	

This is a good example of repentance. Or not. He does not really ask the Lord for anything. He tells Him what has happened and the Lord acts. In a sense Jonah may be content to die here so that Nineveh is not warned. The only hint of Jonah’s willingness to follow God here is the phrase “that which I have vowed I will pay,” in verse 9.

3:1	Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying,	
3:2	“Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you.”	
3:3	So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days’ walk.	
3:4	Then Jonah began to go through the city one day’s walk; and he cried out and said, “Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”	
3:5	Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them.	