

Jonah : Talk the talk AND walk the walk

PART 2

Men's Ministry Breakfast and Bible Study

CHAPTER 3:

Verse 1 – 2: Jonah gets a gracious 2nd chance to follow his prophetic mandate.

Spiritual Growth indicator #7: A life that is growing spiritually responds to God in total obedience.

3. This time Jonah obeys... sort of.

4. Jonah delivers God's message... "overthrown" is HA PAK in Hebrew and can mean Destroyed or Changed. (Exodus 7:10) [Moses' staff *changed* into a snake] (Exodus 7:20) [Nile *changed* into blood]

5. The people of Ninevah believe God (In Hebrew Elohim which is plural and can mean supreme God, false small "G" gods, angels or men)

The people of the entire city put on sackcloth (coarse material made from goat or camel hair), fasted and sat in ashes.

(This is a multi-cultural, poly-theistic city. The supreme small "G" god is Dagan, who is half man/half fish.)

[Imagine if you were one of these people, believing in Dagan... and some dude is puked out of a fish, smelling like fish and announcing judgements... you might believe it also!] [Can't know their reaction represents salvific faith, however, since HA PAK can mean *changed*, and they weren't *destroyed*, it is possible.]

6 – 9: When the King of Ninevah heard the warning from Jonah he...

- 1) Arose (Acknowledged the seriousness of the situation)
- 2) Took off his royal robe (Submission to a conqueror)
- 3) Put on sackcloth (Repented)
- 4) Sat in ashes (Picture of hopelessness)

The King makes a decree that all people and livestock must put on sackcloth, sit in ashes, fast, repent of their evil ways and violence and call out to the supreme God, that He might relent and spare them.

[Notice that the people were ALREADY doing this... politicians take polls, see what people want to hear or do, then make pronouncements taking credit for the idea! Nothing has changed since 760 BC]

[I mentioned last time that Pagan gods were viewed as perpetually angry]

(Nevertheless, this is the kind of response to His Word that Yahweh wanted from Jeroboam II and Israel, which is the main point of the book.)

10. God saw that they repented and spared them... showing His grace and mercy to GENTILES as well as Jews!

(God cares about ALL people EVERYWHERE) (Romans 1:16)

[The most unlikely recipient of God's grace, the pagan King, receives it... the most likely recipient of God's grace, Jonah, rejects it!]

[Revival ALWAYS begins with repentance] Romans 14:17 Righteousness, Peace, Joy

[God ALWAYS responds to repentance, however your "baggage" will be dragging along behind you!]

CHAPTER 4:

1. Jonah reveals that his heart is NOT after God's own heart.

(He wants HA PAK to mean only **destruction** in this case. Jonah received grace and mercy in the belly of the fish, yet wants that withheld from these people whom he hates.)

(God doesn't want his pride of being a Jew and of his sacrifices) (Psalm 51:16-17)

Spiritual Growth Indicator #8: A life that is growing spiritually responds to God in humility, not pride and arrogance.

2 – 3. Jonah gets smart mouthed with the LORD and admits that the potential of His grace and mercy being poured out on Ninevah is WHY he ran to Tarshish. He would rather die than obey the LORD's will and work toward the fulfillment of His plans to extend His love to the Gentiles.

Spiritual Growth Indicator #9: A life that is growing spiritually loves the unlovely and pursues them.

(Jonah can't love the unlovely because he doesn't understand God's love for **him** and that he IS the unlovely! In order to love the unlovely as God does, we must first understand how depraved WE are and how much God has forgiven US for.)

(Tell story how I was taught by God that I was acting like Jonah with oak tree)

4. The LORD asks a rhetorical question... Jonah leaves.

5. Jonah takes a "ring side seat" in the sun to see if God will come to His senses and kill the Ninevites.

[When Jonah or any other human questions God's decisions, we unhappy with the LORD being in control and **we** want to be god!]

Spiritual Growth Indicator #10: A life that is growing spiritually strives to love as God loves.

6. God appointed a plant to shade Jonah... Jonah glad.

7. God appointed a worm to kill the plant... Jonah sad.

8. God appointed a scorching East wind... Jonah miserable Again wants to die

9. The LORD asks another rhetorical question and Jonah gets smart mouthed again.

Spiritual Growth Indicator #11: A life that is growing spiritually evaluates one's heart and removes anything which hinders service.

10. The LORD says you are sad about the death of this shade vine, which you didn't plant or nurture, yet you think I should NOT care about this city of 120,000 people, who WERE created by Me, who are so confused about life, they don't know their right hand from their left!

Spiritual Growth Indicator #12: A life that is growing spiritually is more concerned about people than “things”.

[It has been suggested that this number referred to children, however recent archeology and study reveals that it is unlikely the Ninevah had that many children... perhaps a total of 200,000 to 300,000 people.]

[It turns out that the King of Ninevah MAY NOT have come to saving faith in the LORD as evidenced by 1) his calling Him Elohim instead of Yahweh and 2) he conquered the Northern kingdom of Israel in 733 BC. However, some of the people of Ninevah **likely did** come to salvation.]

(Matthew 13:3-8) [Parable of the sower and the seed]

The long-term change observed in the sailors on the ship with Jonah, making vows and attempting to follow the Mosaic law and sacrifices, is indicative that their souls had passed from death to life through faith in Yahweh. This is what the LORD expects from each of us who profess salvation through faith in Jesus’ death and resurrection. He wants a living sacrifice of our lives, dead to self and alive to God. (Romans 12:1-2)

The exciting thing is that before He created the world for you and I to be born on, God knew every little intimate thing about us, and still calls us to salvation. Like the old hymn says... “Just as I am without one plea, but that my God did died for me.” (Romans 8:1-4)

[LISTEN: “KNOWN” by Tauren Wells]

