

POWER HOUR

10/27/2024

Lesson Text:
Jonah 1:7-17

Background Scripture:
2 Kings 5:15-19 & Numbers 26:52-56

Devotional Reading:
Acts 17:24-27

“JONAH RUNS AND IS FOUND OUT”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: *Now the Lord had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights.* Jonah 1:17 NLT

Time: 780 B.C.

Place: Joppa; Mediterranean Sea

Jonah 1:7-17 NLT

7 Then the crew cast lots to see which of them had offended the gods and caused the terrible storm. When they did this, the lots identified Jonah as the culprit. **8** “Why has this awful storm come down on us?” they demanded. “Who are you? What is your line of work? What country are you from? What is your nationality?” **9** Jonah answered, “I am a Hebrew, and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land.” **10** The sailors were terrified when they heard this, for he had already told them he was running away from the Lord. “Oh, why did you do it?” they groaned. **11** And since the storm was getting worse all the time, they asked him, “What should we do to you to stop this storm?” **12** “Throw me into the sea,” Jonah said, “and it will become calm again. I know that this terrible storm is all my fault.” **13** Instead, the sailors rowed even harder to get the ship to the land. But the stormy sea was too violent for them, and they couldn't make it. **14** Then they cried out to the Lord, Jonah's God. “O Lord,” they pleaded, “don't make us die for this man's sin. And don't hold us responsible for his death. O Lord, you have sent this storm upon him for your own good reasons.” **15** Then the sailors picked Jonah up and threw him into the raging sea, and the storm stopped at once! **16** The sailors were awestruck by the Lord's great power, and they offered him a sacrifice and vowed to serve him. **17** Now the Lord had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights.

INTRODUCTION

Doing God's will is a simple matter for His children, right? All we have to do is know His will and carry it out, right? That will always be the easiest way to happiness, right? With truths like this before us, we are always eager to know what God wants us to do, right? Unfortunately, it rarely seems to work quite that easily, as every believer knows. Sometimes it is difficult to do God's will, either because of our own sinfulness or because of challenging circumstances. Those of us who have sought to run from doing God's will know that it is impossible to escape from His presence. When His will is easy and pleasant, we are eager to fulfill it, but when it demands something difficult, we often try to run from it or ignore it. Jonah tried to run, but God's love for him was too great to escape. God sought him out and gave him another chance to obey.

POINTS TO PONDER

1. People often look to superstition and luck for answers they should seek from God (Jonah 1:7).
2. God's people must always be aware that their sins may affect and endanger others (Jonah 1:8).
3. Disobedience damages our relationship with God and others but does not change who we are as God's children (Jonah 1:9).
4. No one can outrun God (Jonah 1:10-11).
5. God uses the experiences and mistakes of our lives to teach others about Himself (Jonah 1:12-14).
6. God reveals His **power and will** so that those who do not know Him can see Him and believe (Jonah 1:15- 17).

CONCLUSION

All of us have faced discipline from the Lord. What are some ways the Lord may discipline us? It may be things like difficult circumstances in life, health problems, or even death. Not every such instance is discipline from the Lord.

When we face God's discipline, what are the different ways we can respond? When we face discipline, we can ignore it, we can become angry at the Lord and continue being disobedient, or we can submit to His discipline so that we can grow in our Christian character. Let us choose the third response. If you are facing discipline today, recognize it as God's love for you and respond in obedience.

QUESTION(S)

- Why did Jonah not want to obey God, and what did he do in an attempt to disobey?
- How was Jonah chosen twice in the first chapter of this book?
- Why did the sailors interrogate Jonah after the casting of lots pointed to him?
- What two bits of information caused them to fear God greatly?
- What predicament did Jonah's presence on board cause for the crew?
- What do you think was behind Jonah's reply that the solution was to throw him into the sea? What did the sailors try to do instead of what Jonah recommended? What did they do when they saw that there was no other option?
- What happened when Jonah hit the water, and what did the sailors do then?
- How did God protect Jonah?

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is "**Jonah Repents**" We shall see our God's love protects us even when He has to discipline us.

Lesson Text: **Jonah 2:1-10**

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