

THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JONAH

CHAPTER 4:1-5

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“JONAH – GOD’S “FAILING” SUCCESS”

SERMON SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED KEYWORD:

DISCIPLESHIP, SALVATION, EVANGELISM, MINISTRY

INTRODUCTION

to the text

Jonah 4:1-5

Jonah 4:1-5

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. ² So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. ³ "Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!" ⁴ Then the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city.

JONAH - GOD’S FAILING SUCCESS

Jonah, in a real painful way,
was losing the battle in his personal crusade

1.) Make Sure You’re on God’s Side

vv. 1-2

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The Way We View Things
&
The Way God See's Things

WE CAN BECOME A "FAILING" SUCCESS

1a.) Failure – When We Should Celebrating

Verse 1

*But it displeased Jonah exceedingly,
and he became angry.*

We Know Now - Why This Would Cause Jonah to Be

*"exceedingly displeased"
and "angry"?*

It was The Unworthiness of the Ninevites
to be Saved by God – that troubled Jonah

The Qualification of Salvation

Acts 2:21

And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the
name of the Lord shall be saved.'

- To Be Saved, You First Have To Be ***In Peril***
- To Be Found, You First Have To ***Be Lost***
- To Be Redeemed, You First Have To Have ***Been Sold***

- To Be Heaven bound You First Had to Have ***Been Hell bound***
-

Jonah is Extremely Upset

It's Based Upon a Fallacy – which is...

The Humanistic Idea or Concept That Heaven is Reserved for Only Good People –
That Only the Best of People Have Access

Jonah Believes That There is No Limit to God's Love
For the Jewish people – only!

He Couldn't Allow Himself to Believe That God's Love and Grace
Was bigger than the Sins of a wicked Empire

Whenever We Have a Small View of God
And His abilities, we too will become...

***“exceedingly displeased”
and “angry”***

Because The Lord is Not Small, He is Not Little,
His Not Dwelling a Box

It's Easy to Worship the Things of Religion
Israel did that in history with the Ark of the Covenant

They Began to Worship the Idea that God was in the Box
“You Can't Put God in a Box”

So Jonah's Being Reminded – You Can't Control God

***So the thing displeased Jonah exceedingly,
and he became angry.***

Pouting Because My God Won't do My Will

WE CAN BECOME A “FAILING” SUCCESS

1b.) Disappointment – When We Should be Glad

Verse 2a

So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish;

There is Sarcasm

It's more of a comment than a prayer

WE CAN BECOME A “FAILING” SUCCESS

1c.) Selfishness – When We should be Sharing

Verse 2b

...for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.

Never Let Anyone Tell You That

“The God of the Old Testament is an Angry and Violent God.”
“And the God of the New Testament is a Loving and Gentle God.”

Jonah Knew That God was a “Good Thing”

He Knew That “What” and “How” The Lord was so Wonderful

*...for I know that You are
a gracious kind of God
and merciful - kind of God,
a slow to anger - kind of God
an abundant in lovingkindness - kind of God
a one who relents from doing harm - kind of God.*

John 14:31

"But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.

John 17:23

"I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Matthew 28:18-20 KJV

And Jesus spake unto them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ **"Go therefore** and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the world" Amen.

If You Know Him
then you cannot hold yourself back from telling others about him

JONAH - GOD'S "FAILING" SUCCESS

2.) *Don't Think You Know Everything* vv. 3-4

*"Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!" ⁴ Then the LORD said,
"Is it right for you to be angry?"*

WE CAN BECOME A "FAILING" SUCCESS

2a.) *Doubt – When We Think We Know Better Than God*

Verse 3a

"Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me,

Jonah Comes to the End of His Own Road

An Emotional Stripping

Prior to this we see a cool calculated Jonah saying such things as...

Jonah 1:9-12

And Jonah said to those on board, "I am a Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." ¹⁰ Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "Why have you done this?" For the men knew that he was now fleeing from the presence of the LORD. ¹¹ Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?"-- for the sea was growing more tempestuous. ¹² And Jonah replied to them said, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me."

2b.) Hopelessness – When We See Ourselves in Charge

Verse 3b

for it is better for me to die than to live!"

Elijah – Jonah - US!!!

When things don't go our way

Hopelessness Can Be Bigger Than A Whale

When we lose Hope – we think weird thoughts

1. Isolation
2. Withdrawing
3. Loneliness
4. Fearful
5. Discouragement
6. Which is and still leads to Hopelessness

Don't Think You Know Everything

2c.) Error – When We Defend Our Position

Verse 4

*...Then the LORD said,
"Is it right for you to be angry?"*

"Is it right for you to be angry?"

Right = Hebrew 3190 yatab (yaw-tab');
To sound beautiful, happy or successful, does it cheer up

Does it make you merry, make you sweet, to be angry?

This Will Eat You Alive Jonah

Defending your position can cost you your life
~~Not war or Patriotism~~

Your Internal Life

The Advice to Our Kids
Children – Never Hold a Grudge!!!

Proverbs 14:30

A sound heart is life to the body,
but envy (jealousy) is rotteness to the bones.

JONAH - GOD'S "FAILING" SUCCESS

3.) We're all Dispensable to God

vv. 5

*So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city.
There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade,*

till he might see what would become of the city.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

3a.) Pride - God Allows Us to be Involved

Verse 5

So Jonah went out of the city

Wait, Wait, Wait a Minute Here Please...

Don't Miss This – Zoom in a Little;

Verse 4

ends with a question.

*...Then the LORD said,
"Is it right for you to be angry?"*

So Jonah went out of the city

God asks Jonah a question,

and Jonah Turns and walks Away

(If he would have had hair, he would have just flicked it out there and stomped off)

Jonah is Just like You & me

No Room for Pride – Cuz God Allows Us to be Involved

Galatians 6:14

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Isaiah 14:12-15

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! ¹³ For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' ¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.

Ezekiel 28:14-17

"You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. ¹⁵ You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. ¹⁶ "By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. ¹⁷ "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid

So Jonah went out of the city

Jonah, Desiring
to Withdraw From These Assyrians,
Parks Himself Overlooking Nineveh

He still hasn't lost hope of perhaps a little
bit of judgment

We're all Dispensable to God

3b.) Self-Righteousness – He's Working with Us

Verse 5

*and so he sat on the east side of the city.
There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade,
till he might see what would become of the city.*

That makes sense. He had entered in on the Westside of Nineveh, having walked through it once he would have come out on the east side.

He hasn't given up hope yet.
There could still barbeque – Nineveh style!

Just a Little Fire and Brimstone

- How about an Earthquake
- A Flood – Floods Work Really Good
- Send An Angel Like in Egypt

We're all Dispensable to God

3c.) Resentment – Only God can Know a Man's Heart

Verse 2

...for I (knew past tense)) - know that You are

In Earlier Days I Knew You a Certain Way

Now I Know You My Way

Resentment

THE PERSONAL APPLICATION

Is there a Jonah in Me?

Has a Relationship gone Sour?

Which one of the two of you knows the Lord?

Which one of you is the more spiritual?

Then Stop The Cancer From Spreading within You!!!

CAST YOURSELF DOWN AT HIS FEET

end