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McInteer Sermon Outlines - Jonah

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DOES THE WORLD HEAR US SNORING?
Jonah 1:4-5

I. It's God on center stage.
A. Just so long does man go w/o God reckoning with him.
1. God told Jonah to go to Nineveh.
2. Jonah fled from God & went to Tarshish.
3. Jonah went down into ship & went to sleep.
B. Can God do anything about all this?
V. 4 "But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea.
1. Great wind at sea.
   a.) Literally hurled a great wind.
   b.) Like a baseball pitcher.
   c.) Action causative - God does it.
   d.) 1 Sam. 18:11 "And Saul cast the javelin; for he
   e.) This is God's part - Jonah's done his - Pusey.
2. There was a mighty tempest.
   a.) We bring trouble on ourselves.
   b.) Rebellion does not escape God's notice.
   c.) God at 1st didn't try to stop Jonah.
   d.) Virgil, "Easy is the descent to hades."
   e.) Jonah that he'd find rest & lo a tempest.
   f.) Sin brings storms to lives.
3. The ship that it was breaking up - see margin.
   a.) Ascribe to ship sense of its own danger.
   b.) Ship spoken of as a living thing.
II. The Action of the Mariners (V. 5).
A. The Mariners were afraid.
1. Mariner = salt.
2. Sailor = rope puller.
3. Reacted in terror - never saw a storm like this.
B. Cried every man to his God.
1. What do you do when pressed to a breaking point.
   (Randy Becton has good cancer article).
   a.) Fear crushes - faith conforms.
2. Egyptians had vast inventory of Gods.
   a.) Sky.
   b.) Water.
   c.) House.
   d.) Field - thus, the 10 plagues.
   e.) Different Gods for land & sea.
3. No God but Jehovah.
   Isa. 45:5 "I am the Lord, and there is none else, there
   4. Christian cries to God he knows - not so c
      heathen.
C. Cast forth the wares.
   1. Wares = articles, utensils.
   2. We often treat the symptoms & not the cause.
   3. Do we cast the wrong thing overboard - grain
      instead of Jonah.
   4. How powerful is the love of life - throw all
      overboard for it.
III. Action of Jonah (V. 5).
   A. "Down in the sides of the ship, & he lay, & was
      fast asleep."
   1. Jonah asleep in the thigh of the vessel - tucked
      self away in safety from the storm.
   2. How could he sleep at a time like this.
      a.) Exhausted.
      b.) Escape.
      c.) False security.
d.) Sleep - it will go away & clear conscience.
e.) Jonah was thru with all that gave life meaning.
f.) Do drugs help?
g.) Nothing as heavy as sin.
Ps. 38:4 "For mine iniquities are gone over mine head as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me."
h.) Grief produces sleep.
B. Can I so sleep today?
C. Can I not watch the receding shoreline so I go down & go to sleep?
IV. Our Snoring Attracts World's Attention.
A. I never heard anyone snore in church that someone else didn't too.
1. They may say nothing.
2. But they look & laugh!
B. Ship master went after Jonah.
1. How'd captain know to go get him.
2. What meanest thou, O sleeper?
   a.) Stern rebuke from heathen mariner.
   b.) Supine in midst of danger?
   c.) Does my rebellion lead me to be incapable of helping others?
   d.) Of all the ship's company - God's servant alone is unconcerned.
   e.) Sin stupefies.
Heb. 3:13 "But exhort one another daily while it is cc
f.) We get past feeling - hearts to stone.
3. Arise - Call upon thy God - that we perish not.
a.) Jonah oft heard "arise" - captain of ship & of salvation (V. 2).
b.) Heathen has something to say to us.
c.) Call on the God, told specifically - none of ours work!

4. What's my condition?
   a.) Asleep to dangers.
   b.) Lost if death takes us in our current sleep.
   c.) "High time to awake out of sleep."
ABOVE THE "ROW" OF THE CROWD
Jonah 1:7-16

I. Dramatically we have heard:
A. The Roar of the Crowd.
B. I tell you an event above the "Row" of
   the crowd.
C. It's the story of Jonah's forsaking his
duty.

II. When we pick up our story in Jonah 1:7-16
   this has already happened.
A. God sent Jonah to Nineveh.
B. Instead he headed for Tarshish & fleeing
   from the presence of the Lord.
   1. Easily found a ship at Joppa.
   2. Conveniently paid the fare--either
      God or the Devil provides for us--
      depending on our direction.
   3. Went to bottom of ship and went to
      sleep.
C. God sent a great wind.
   1. Ship almost broken.
   2. Heathen sailors are praying--do
      others put us to shame?
   3. Shipmaster calls the sleeper to prayer.
      a) He'd run as far as he could in
         the bottom of the ship.
      b) Asleep--tired? Running from
         responsibility takes more energy
         than doing it.
      c) Do we sleep as though nothing
         bothers us?
      d) Are we happy when anyone calls
         us to pray?
III. Now to Our Story
A. Cast Lots

1. Heathen had been praying and got no affirmative answer.
2. Awakened Jonah to pray but never said he did.
3. How can one pray to God when he's running from Him?
4. Heathen gods gave no answer & Jonah won't talk to his--something sadly off!
5. Lessons here:
   a) Trouble makes us sympathetic--they said everyone to his fellows.
   b) One method fails (prayer) we move to try another (lots).
   c) Man is inventive.
   d) Felt lots would identify the guilty one. It was to be the finger of God--pointing to culprit.
   e) Our desperation may cause us to use erroneous measures.
6. Question: Who brought this evil on us?
   a) Men's wicked intentions can further God's plans.
   b) God can use many means to accomplish his purpose.
   c) God can strike straight blows with crooked stick. (Overduin)
   d) We sing, "He rides upon the storm", yet modern man thinks nature its own boss and thus ousted God--not so!
e) There is always a connection line between distress & guilt—the curse does not causeless come—only God knows the balance.

f) Suffering a hard qt. to answer; misdoings? sin?

7. Lot fell on Jonah.

B. Intense Interview

v-9 "I am a Heb. & I fear the Lord"

1. Little by little Jonah owns up.
   a) Stayed vague.
   b) We all try to present our guilt in the best light.
   c) Not an explicit confession.
   d) We hedge & dodge.
   e) We confess our guilt in general terms.
   f) We fail specific repentance.

2. Fear the Lord
   a) If we truly believe we should draw the consequences of our life from this belief.
   b) Does the world surpass us in loyalty to its creed?
   c) If you really believe in God why are you running from him? On Wednesday, "why aren't you at prayer meeting?"
   d) Is God everywhere? Land & sea?

3. Heathen exceedingly afraid.
   a) When men come face to face with Supernatural it frightens.
4. Heathen ask "why have you done this?"
   a) Like the crew, many learn the true nature of God in affliction.
   b) The world, like the crew, expects our faith to mean something.
   c) What is our motive for running from God?
   d) What gain do we think sin can give us?

5. They knew he fled from the presence of God "because he had told them" (v-10).
   a) Jonah willfully deserted his office.
   b) One said God didn't accept his resignation.
   c) God would not write him off.
   d) His running shocked the sailors.
   e) Jonah didn't blame anyone but himself.

IV. How Shall We Resolve the Dilemma?
   A. What shall we do to thee? (Seldom does the judge ask the guilty the nature of the sentence--yet our parents did!)
   B. Sea was tempestuous.
      1. Life was in danger.
      2. Sea will get worse.
3. When we are not right with God we see everything slanted.
4. Remember everything is at God's disposal to pursue Jonah.

C. Jonah said, "Cast Me Over."
1. He didn't want to see innocent loose lives.
2. Will others die due to our folly?
3. Didn't say he'd go preach--just perish.
5. Suicide not his right.
   a) Sacrifice his life for safety of others.
   b) Sad to think we may endanger others.

D. Rowed to Bring it to Land.
1. Crew is human--rowed like mad to save him.
2. Was it fear of God or mercy for Jonah that drove them?
3. Row = to dig.
4. Bring = to turn back, return to land.
5. How great is our compassion to the guilty?
6. But about the "row" of the crowd:
   a) Human effort feeble in opposition to Divine will.
   b) Pointless to row against God.
   c) With a Jonah on board you aren't going to win.
d) Storm increased in its intensity.
e) Heb. is growing.
f) Active participle—growing & storming—shades of John Ward—continuous progressive action.
g) Folly to delay—sea more boistrous.

E. Heathen Cried to the Lord.
1. Now pray to God.
2. One man wrote they became Christians???
3. Wanted to be sure they were right in ejecting Jonah.
4. Hated to take matters in own hand—appealed to God as to what to do.
5. Crew did change—men can be changed.
6. God sent Heathen means whereby they can be instructed—"he that wills to know the doctrine."
7. Don't resort to extreme measures when others fail.

F. Jonah Cast Forth
1. 1st cargo—now Jonah.
2. He weighs more than cargo.
3. Nothing heavier than the guilt of sin.
4. Don't resist God's judgement, rather fall in with it.
5. Sea calm—crew better off without Jonah.
6. We can't travel hand in hand with the world.
G. Crew Sacrifices & Made Vows
1. Many verbally acknowledge a high state of Christian perfection but exhibit few compliances--these do!
2. Knew now God is omnipotent & they are impotent.
3. Where holy feelings are they manifest themselves in worship.
4. Ship moves from funeral to worship.
5. We don't know what sacrifices they made, nor nature of their vows.
6. Vows plural.
7. Last we hear of the sailors--did they remain faithful or were they just fearful? Eternity tells us.

Alaskan Cruise - 8/91
Roane church, Kingston, TN - 9/18/91
Westwood, McMinnville, TN - 12/15/91
Stones River, Murfreesboro, TN - 1/12/92
The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us, and we will not perish." Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?" He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and land." This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the Lord, because he had told them so.)

The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?" "Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you." Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not for the sea grew even wilder than before. Then they cried to the Lord, "O Lord, please do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, O Lord, have done as you pleased." Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm.

At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.

There is no doubt that Jonah "believed that God is." With his head he believed that God exists. But at the time of the story of the book of Jonah, in his heart he said, "There is no God." He demonstrated this lack of faith by the way he responded to God's command to go to Nineveh. He acted foolishly and didn't do the good he was told to do (Psalm 14:1).

JONAH TURNS FROM GOD

"At sea" in heart, he put himself at sea in body. He took the downward trail to Joppa, then down to the ship, down to its inner part and finally down to the depth of the sea (1:3, 5; 2:6). Apparently feeling no remorse, before he went below deck to sleep he told the sailors that he was running from his God (1:10).

This rebellious behavior of Jonah did not fit into God's plan. Knowing in advance that Nineveh would repent when they heard the message He sent by Jonah, God intervened. He sent a violent storm to buffet the ship and to give Jonah opportunity to have a
change of heart. God is powerful. He allows only one thing to interrupt His purposes, and that only temporarily. That one thing is the sovereign will of each of us. God could have replaced Jonah, but He continued to work with him and train him to be a missionary.

The mariners were religious men and also knew there was a "higher power." The crew worshipped many gods, and fearing the storm, each man prayed to his own god. Knowing that Jonah, too, had a god, the captain waked him and rebuked him for not praying. No mention is made in the text that Jonah prayed at this time.

The situation was terrifying, so the sailors cast lots to find if someone aboard was to blame for their plight. In both pagan and Hebrew religions the casting of lots was used to get information and determine decisions. The lot fell on Jonah. "The lot they cast was in the hand of Jonah's God (Proverbs 16:33)." [Kohlenberger] God still overrules in many matters which we know nothing about and may call "coincidence" or think them to be of no significance.

When the lot fell on Jonah and he was asked about his God, he gave an honest answer. He made no attempt to explain his behavior, but declared his belief and gave one reason for his faith. That reason was that the Lord he honored is God of heaven, and maker of the land and sea (1:9). Jonah's God "does not do battle with the elements as do the gods of Phoenicia and Canaan; he made them and is sovereign over them." [Kohlenberger]

The sailors' fear of the stormy sea turned into respect for the Maker of the sea. They were in awe of this Creator-God and were astonished that Jonah could have defied Him (1:10). Surely the amazement of these pagan Gentiles must have impressed Jonah and he began to learn of the power of words that tell about the God of heaven. This was a good lesson for a missionary.

The innate knowledge of all mankind since Eden is that disobedience deserves punishment (Genesis 2:17). Therefore, the crew began planning how retribution could be made to Jonah's God. Since Jonah had sinned against his god, they believed his god must be appeased. Every sin we commit is primarily against God, for He said "Be ye holy, for I am holy." For example, David sinned contemptibly against Uriah, but felt that his sin against God was greater (2 Sam. 11; Psa. 51:4).

**JONAH'S SACRIFICE**

Jonah was outnumbered by the heathen seamen, yet he confessed his faith in the God of the Bible. This confession can be costly to anyone. It caused Jonah to back up his words with action. He freely offered to sacrifice his life on behalf of the lives of the sailors. He never expected to survive the raging waters. Although he had been unwilling to give time and effort to spiritually saving the Gentiles of Nineveh, now he was willing to give his physical life for the physical lives of these Gentile sailors. We can criticize him for his misplaced priorities only if we, ourselves, daily devote more time, thought and energy to our spiritual life and to that of others than we do to physical and material things.

The mariners, trying another means of saving themselves, rowed even harder. It was futile. But before they threw Jonah into the
My wife and I are grateful to our gracious Heavenly Father for though she passes through the valley of the shadows of cancer, her soul has been comforted. She really faces decisive battles every day with Satan and suffering. Her health condition is gradually running down, nevertheless she is fighting the good fight of faith.

We have already purchased a lot to erect our church building for our congregation of Coridallos. A Christian architect is working out the drawings and the whole process for a concrete building which will consist of a basement, all-purpose hall about 500 square feet area, the main auditorium 600 square feet area and the upper floor of seven rooms.

We estimate that the total cost of the above building will be about $150,000. What we have in hand right now is only $30,000. For the balance of the amount needed, we trust the Lord to provide. The whole project is a matter of trusting the Lord.

Our plans are to fix first the basement as soon as possible to move in to save the money we pay every month for rent, and then we will gradually work on the main auditorium and as the Lord prospers, the upper floor.

We hope to be ready to break the ground by July 20, 1991. Would you please pray for this big project?

Robert & Joy Garrett
Ruwa, Zimbabwe
May 19, 1991

April and May were busy times here at Rockwood Christian Camp. First, there was the Men's Leadership meeting over the
long Easter weekend from Friday through Sunday with an attendance of 74.

Second was our Junior Camp for ages 7-12. This was our largest group and also the first camp planned to last a full week. There were 45 girls and 37 boys making a total of 82 campers.

This was followed a week later by our Senior Camp for ages 13-17. Here we had 75 campers—45 girls and 30 boys. Again this camp lasted a full week. In both of these camps we made use of some graduate campers as teachers. Some of our young men who have gone to university or teacher training and are now teaching or are still in training, or perhaps other occupations, and who are developing as leaders, were used as teachers.

Six faithful women did the cooking for all these camps, and cooking so many meals for so many for so long was no easy task. Yet time was also taken for Joy to lead them in some Bible studies and to practice some new songs.

Victor N. Broaddus: News received from Manila May 29, 1991

A recent letter from David Moldez, evangelist in Metro Manila area, mentions the formation of another Bible study and worship group in Novaliches (suburb of Manila). They had met for five weeks as of the date of his letter, and it is his hope that soon they may become a congregation. At present they are meeting in a vacant house.

The downtown church in Manila (where Bro. Eniego ministers) had a "family retreat" at a resort outside Manila on March 28 and 29.
THE ETERNAL FORMULA
Jonah 3:1-5

I. It's the story of a man who got his second chance—Jonah.

A. He'd had the strangest submarine a preacher ever used.
   1. It had a 1-cell compartment.
   2. 3 days & nights he'd been in solitary confinement.
   3. He called it the "belly of hell" (Jonah 2:2), it was the fish's belly
      (Jonah 2:1), and even there God "heard my voice" (v-2): Can you
      imagine speaking there?
   4. Of all places to pray, he had it, and it was effective.

v-10 "And the Lord spake unto the fish"

B. Dry land—where?
   1. He never told us nor preached about his fish prison.
   2. Is life over for him—"washed up"—to use a pun.
   3. Can he ever preach again—or want to?
   4. If he landed at Joppa he's 500-600 miles from Nineveh—1 month by
      camel, 5 weeks by foot.
   5. Did he go to Jerusalem to pay his vow?

2:9 "I will pay that that I have vowed"

II. Bless your heart—second chance.
Jonah 3:1 "And the word of the Lord came"

A. 2nd Time!
   1. See God's mercy and forgiveness of the rebellious Jonah.
2. Note his continuing love for Nineveh.
   a) Largest Gentile city in area.
   b) In a life & death struggle with mountain tribes who have established their frontier within 100 miles.
3. To Jonah.
   a) Can't be a recruiter and a deserter at same time. (P.C.)
   b) Either Ambassador or Rebel.
   c) He's forgiven.
B. Arise, go unto Nineveh.
   1. Message about same as 1st time.
   2. No time to delay.
   3. Difficulty of obedience grows by delay.
C. Great City.
   1. Scholars guess at its size.
      a) 8 miles in circumference its fortification.
      b) Suburbs out in a circle 60 miles around.
      c) God called it great in his estimate.
      d) "Was" of v-3 does not mean it is non-existent and this is just a story.
Jn. 11:18 "Bethany was nigh to Jerusalem"
   e) Great to God.
Gen. 10:9 Nimrod
Acts 7:20 Moses
2. Let us see the enormity of the task confronting Jonah.
Matt. 28 "Go ye therefore and teach all"
3. God thinks big!
4. Palestine had no big cities.
   a) Must have filled him with awe.
   b) Betty tells of riding first escalator—what happens when the basement get full of steps?

D. Preach Unto It
1. Same message—divine claims are not nullified by disobedience or discarded and altered to suit the capriccio of individuals.
2. God changes not in character.
   (Exell)
3. Imperative duty is placed.
4. Preach!
   a) By foolishness of preaching.
   b) Great force—preach—not books or pamphlets.
   c) 1st time—cry, denounce.
   d) 2nd time preach—call out to her.
   e) Truth + living voice + personal element—God's way.

III. The Eternal Formula:
Preach the Preaching That I Bid Thee
A. Not New
Deut. 18:18 "Put my words in his mouth and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him."
Jer. 1:7 "Whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak"
Jn. 7:16 "My doctrine is not mine but his that sent me"
Jn. 12:50 "Whatsoever I speak therefore even as the Father said unto me, so I speak"
B. Cry the Cry That I Bid Thee.

1. True preachers declare the message of God.
2. Jim Franks told of his 2 granddads--Methodist & Presbyterian preachers.
   a) Searched religions and felt Presbyterian demanded the least.
   b) Preached goodwill--no Bible.
   c) Next door to our church house--never invited till Gus Nichols came to town.
   d) Had him for supper every night--heard him--baptized when 72--organized bus tours to hear him.
3. Don't preach what we like, fancy, imagine, nor popular.
4. Our message is given and we can't be silent.
5. May incur the odium of men but God outlines the content.
6. This age society, social pressures, the palatable want to dictate it, but:

   1 Pet. 4:11
   John 3:34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God.

7. Our task: what God bids & who can imagine anything greater.
8. Add not; alter not; diminish not.
9. Only 1 God; only 1 Gospel. (Bruce)

IV. Jonah's Response

A. Arose & Went

1. Needed no urging--prompt.
2. Saw it as a "whale" of a job but went!
3. Totally compliant as were other
servants. God used: wind, sea, fish.
4. He went because he was told.
   where he was told.
   time he was told.
5. Respected his God, new attitude
   shown.
7. Discipline prepared him.
8. Undaunted by enormous task and
   possible danger.
B. Hard to unravel the 3 days' journey
   and enter 1 day's journey.
   1. Maybe started at suburbs and
      preached to the heart of it. Like
      brush fire, it spread.
   2. Knew man has the power to do the
      right.
   3. Tackled long odds--foreigner in a
      strange land.
C. His 5 word (in Hebrew) message.
40 Days & Nineveh Shall Be Overthrown
1. 40 days--direct, simple.
   a) Moses 40 yr. Egypt 40 Midian
      40 wilderness 40 days
      Sinai (Exo. 24:18)
   b) Elijah 40 days Mt. Horeb
      (1 Kings 19:8)
   c) Jesus 40 days & temptations
      40 days after death
      (Matthew 4:2)
   d) Rain (Genesis 7:4, 12)
2. 40 days long time for a Righteous
   God to wait.
3. Overthrown
   a) Thorough, complete.
   b) Complete destruction like Sodom.
   c) No excuse for continued obedience
4. They believed!

FHU Chapel, Henderson, TN - 10/10/95
Clearview church, Lyles, TN - 10/15/95
Pond Church, Dickson, TN - 10/29/95
Bethany church, Olmstead, KY - 11/26/95
Temperance Hall C/C 8/9/96