

“Get On Board”

The Book of Jonah

October 22, 2017

VIDEO: Uganda Family (fall of 2017)

INTRO: Today is a continuation of...

- 2017 series... Disciples Path – Journey with Jesus
- Fourth & final quarter:
 - Return to the Gospel
 - See the Big Picture (from U.S, India, Uganda)
 - The God Who Sends (we go AS Jesus went)

 - TODAY: “Get On Board!”

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 as we begin...

PREVIEW: Are you journeying with Jesus OR Jonah?

- Inform - Jonah 1
- Inspect - Jonah 2-3
- Inspire - Jonah 4

PRAY:

- Pray for clarity...
- Pray for conviction...
- Pray for your commission

JONAH

VIDEO: *Uganda 2017*

- Continuation...
 - 2017 sermon series
 - The last 3 weeks:
 - Return to the Gospel
 - See the Big Picture
 - AS the Father Sends Me, I Send You...
- “Get On Board”
 - To BE on His mission you must give up yours
 - Living & Loving Life Lessons from Jonah...
 - Christ-following is ALL about Truth-in-Love!

CONTEXT: (more to follow later in the message)

- Like Jesus, Jonah is from Nazareth...
- Jesus referred to the “sign of Jonah” (3 days/nights)
- Watch for the deeper meanings & significance...
 - Like the Prodigal account
 - Like the Parable of the forgiven servant
 - Like the Parable of the Talents...
 - Like the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

TEXT:

¹ *Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah... saying,*

- God sovereignly speaks...
- God miraculously speaks...
- God lovingly speaks...
- God graciously speaks...
- God mercifully speaks...

² *“Arise, go to...*

VIDEO: *India 2017*

² *“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.”*

- God authoritatively speaks... (Arise... Go...)
- God missionally speaks... (go to Nineveh; call out)
- God intolerantly speaks... (call out... their evil...)

³ *But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.*

➤ “But” = contrast coming against Creator God...

VIDEO: *Submission – Authority of God*

- NOTE: God said arise & Jonah “rose”
 - Partial obedience is total disobedience...
 - Arise to go vs. rose to flee
- NOTE: He “found a ship going to Tarshish”
 - You can always find a “ship” going to Tarshish
 - People “pay the fare” to run away from God...
- Jonah wanted to get away from the presence of God

⁴ But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up.

- “But” = God is now about to contrast Jonah...
- See the sovereign, loving intervention of God...
- See Creator God controlling His creation...

⁵ Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep.

⁶ So the captain came and said to him, “What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish.”

⁷ And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.

⁸ Then they said to him, “Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?”

⁹ And he said to them, “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, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

¹¹ Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea grew more and more tempestuous.

¹² He said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.”

¹³ Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them.

¹⁴ Therefore they called out to the LORD, “O LORD, let us not perish for this man’s life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for

you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you.”

¹⁵ So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.

¹⁶ Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

¹⁷ And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

VIDEO: *The Story of Jonah*

Jonah 2:1-10 (ESV)

¹ Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish,

² saying, “I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

³ For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.

⁴ Then I said, ‘I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.’

⁵ The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head

*⁶ at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; **yet you brought up my life from***

the pit, O LORD my God.

⁷ When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.

⁸ Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love.

⁹ But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!

¹⁰ And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

Jonah 3:1-10 (ESV)

¹ Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,

² “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.”

³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth.

⁴ Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed in God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

⁶ The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

⁷ And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor

beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water,

⁸ but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.

⁹ Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.”

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Jonah 4:1-11 (ESV)

¹ But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry.

*² And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? **That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.***

³ Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

⁴ And the LORD said, “Do you do well to be angry?”

VIDEO: Washer – “Great Commission Passion”

⁵ *Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city.*

⁶ *Now **the LORD God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant.***

⁷ ***But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered.***

⁸ *When the sun rose, **God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”***

⁹ *But God said to Jonah, “Do you do well to be angry for the plant?” And he said, “**Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.**”*

¹⁰ *And the LORD said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night.*

¹¹ *And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”*

CONTEXT: (ministry)

VIDEO: Submission to Authority

“This book is about what we should do in our church. But before we go further talking about do-ing, we must address the issue of our attitude.

If we “do” without the right attitude, we submit to legalistic guidelines. We become frustrated. We burn out.

But if we have the right attitude/heart, do-ing becomes natural. It becomes joyous. In other words, if you have a right, biblically directed attitude, you will experience joy in church membership.

The right attitude means we recognize that no church is perfect. We expect that some church members will be irritants to us (at times). We acknowledge that no pastor or church staff member is perfect.

But we serve and “do” anyway. We serve and “do,” not out of a sense of legalistic obligation, but out of an overflow of gratitude of what God has done for us through His Son.

So what does the right attitude look like? Here are some biblical examples:

- Committed
- Unifying
- Sacrificial
- Prayerful
- Joyful

T/S:

VIDEO: “India Mission”

- Our India connection reflects those “ALL-in”
- God’s call is for us to go help... and maybe BE...
- Do we help all the missionaries or adopt some?
- It’s not our “SAY” --- we are to PRAY & OBEY.

T/S: Living & Loving Life-Lessons from Jonah...

- Brief context of Jonah
 - My children’s devotional outline:
 - Ch.1 = No way!
 - Ch.2 = Pray!
 - Ch.3 = Obey!
 - Ch.4 = Give it away!
 - From Nazareth... like Jesus
 - Referenced by Jesus... “the sign of Jonah”
 - Theological connection to Nahum & Amos

TEXT: The Book of Jonah

VIDEO: “The Story of Jonah”

- Work vs. Worship...
- Jonah vs. Jesus...

T/S: Once again we see that God's Word has so much more for us than we can ever get with mere superficial "skimming." Hear me believers... we NEED to read our Bibles better!

VIDEO: Washer "The Great Commission... Passion"

Like	JONAH	vs.	JESUS
	CULTURAL	vs.	BIBLICAL
	All about you...		ALL about Christ!
	Compromising.		Commissioning
	Rationalizations		Relationships
	Mechanical.		Miracle
	Programs.		People
	A Crowd.		A Church
	Consumers.		Christians
	Selfishness.		Selflessness
	Inward-focus.		Outward-focus
	Take.		Give
	Mine...		His

Here...	Heaven or Hell
Balance.	Obedience
Cheap-grace.	Christ's-grace
Liars.	Lovers
Betrayers.	Ambassadors
Dividers.	Unifiers
"with Me".	"against Me"
"scatterers".	"gatherers"
"goats/wolves".	"sheep/shepherds"
"false teachers".	"true teachers"
"hirelings".	"owners/shepherds"
"false gospels".	"true gospel"
"to be served".	"serving others"
"fakes & feelings".	"facts & faith"
"many".	"few"
"worldly".	"worship"
"superficial".	"supernatural"
"friendly".	"family"
"what-ever...".	"witness!"
"do-ing".	"BE-ing"
"happiness".	"holiness"
"wishing".	"praying"
"demanding".	"discipling"
"visiting".	"investing"
"polish".	"passion"
"empty".	"full"
"fickle".	"faithful"
"maybe".	"No matter what!"
"managers".	"ministers"
"politically correct"	"personally Christ-like"

"appearances".	"realities"
"gossip".	"Gospel"
"me".	"Messiah"
"rituals/rules".	"redemption/restoration"
"Commiserate".	"Celebrate"
"Do"	"BE"

Disciples Path QUOTES/Questions:

"Jonah was sent to do something by God (so were we).
But... Jonah refused..."

We were commanded to go make disciples of all nations

- How has God's mission for the world influenced your prayer life?
- How has God's mission for the world influenced your career plans?
- How has God's mission for the world influenced your relationships?

Children's Devotional Outline of Jonah

Big Idea: **Jonah shows us the Gospel**

(Our holy God confronts sin and offers love, mercy, & grace before His wrath arrives.)

10 Words to Define

- **God/Lord** - One unique, eternal, ruling & relational, loving Creator, Savior, & Helper
- **Holy** - Perfect & set apart
- **Sin** - Disobeying God
- **Justice** - Right results/outcome(s)
- **Truth** - Jesus & all that is in line with Him
- **Love** - Christ-like affection (Agape)
- **Mercy** - Withholding hard but right results
- **Grace** - Giving of unearned blessing(s)
- **Wrath** - God's punishment
- **Gospel** - mMm

PREVIEW:

- I. **Both Jonah & the Gospel start with... "NO WAY!"**
 - a. **God spoke to Jonah**

- b. **Jonah said “No way!”**
 - c. **Then God said: “No way!”**
 - II. **Both Jonah & the Gospel call us to “PRAY.”**
 - a. **Then Jonah prayed...**
 - b. **The Lord answered Jonah...**
 - c. **The Lord spoke to the fish.**
 - III. **Both Jonah & the Gospel are a call to “OBEY”**
 - a. **God gives second chances**
 - b. **God blesses biblical believers**
 - c. **God blesses faithful obedience**
 - IV. **Both Jonah & the Gospel say: “GIVE IT AWAY!”**
 - a. **Look at Jonah**
 - b. **Look at God/Jesus**
 - c. **BE like God/Jesus!**
 - I. **Both Jonah & the Gospel start with... “NO WAY!”**

a. God spoke to Jonah

(Child #1)

- i. **“Go to Nineveh”**
 - ii. **Tell them to repent**
 - iii. **God still talks to us today...**
 - 1. **His Word**
 - 2. **Our prayers**
 - 3. **Other Christians**
 - 4. **The world around us**

b. Jonah said “No way!”

(Child #2)

- i. **Jonah ran away**

- ii. Jonah ran away from the presence of the Lord

c. Then God said: “No way!”

(Child #3)

- i. Storming seas
- ii. Sinking ship
- iii. Scared shipmates
- iv. Sleeping sinner
- v. Swimming & swallowing

II. Both Jonah & the Gospel call us to “PRAY.”

a. Then Jonah prayed...

(Child #4)

- i. To the Lord...
- ii. From the belly of the fish...
 - 1. Repentance
 - 2. Praise!

b. The Lord answered Jonah...

(Child #5)

c. The Lord spoke to the fish.

(Child #6)

III. Both Jonah & the Gospel are a call to “OBEY”

a. God gives second chances

(Child #7)

i. The word of the Lord came a second time:

1. Get up!
2. Go to Nineveh...
3. Get'em ready!

ii. Jonah obeyed (sort of...)

b. God blesses biblical believers

(Child #8)

i. The people of Nineveh believed God's word!

1. Belief is seen in their faith
2. Belief is seen in their obedience
3. Belief is seen in their humility
4. Belief is seen in their calling out to God
5. Belief is seen in their repentance
6. Belief is seen in their respect of God
 - ~ His holiness
 - ~ His anger
 - ~ His wrath
 - ~ His passions

- a. Purity
- b. Purposes
- c. People
- ~ His Power

c. God blesses faithful obedience

(Child #9)

- i. Nineveh received & believed God's word
- ii. Nineveh relented & repented
- iii. God gave mercy & grace

IV. Both Jonah & the Gospel say: "GIVE IT AWAY!"

a. Look at Jonah

(Child #10)

- i. Jonah got mad at God for giving out grace...
- ii. Jonah knew that God was gracious...

b. Look at God/Jesus

(Child #11)

- i. God calls out Jonah's anger...
- ii. God gives Jonah more grace...
 - 1. Jonah: "I'd rather die..." (2X)
 - 2. God: "Do you do well to be angry?" (2X)

~ Jonah pouts & reveals a bad heart :-)

c. BE like God/Jesus!

(Child #12)

- i. Jesus revealed His merciful heart (so should we...)
- ii. Jesus reveals His missional heart

CLOSE:

Thank you!

Tell them what you're going to tell them...

Tell them.

Tell them what you told them!

(Entire team recites...)

Jonah shows us the Gospel!

(Our holy God confronts sin and offers love, mercy, & grace before His wrath arrives.)

Let's Pray!

F.A.T. people are to be sought:

1. Disciplers seek: (those to pour into)

F = Faithful

A = Available

T = Teachable

2. Disciples seek: (those to trust & follow)

Faithful

Available

Trainer

S.A.D. people are to be avoided:

S = Self-centered

A = Antagonistic

D = Deceitful & Deceptive

QUOTE: "Humility is not thinking less of yourself... it's thinking of yourself less." - Dr. David Jeremiah

Faith's inevitable fork in the road... (this is both a micro & a macro challenge...)

Will you walk like Jesus OR Jonah (or Judas)?

Dr. David Jeremiah... on COMPASSION

It's one thing to "announce" God's Word... it's an all together different thing to APPLY God's Word! (cf. Luke 10's "Good Samaritan")

Too many in church are "students" of compassion... but NOT agents of compassion.

*** Illustration: seminary students "drama"

What compassion is NOT:

Compassion is NOT academic!

Compassion is NOT abstract!

Conflicts are often the doorways for compassions.

Compassion is NOT afraid!

1 John 3:17 & 18!!!

Compassion is NOT analytical!

Religious work does NOT make the worker religious. -
D. Jeremiah

What COMPASSION is:

Compassion IS kindness in action!

Compassion is about what you see...

Jesus had/has compassion (3X in Matthew)

Compassion is hindered by bubble-living...

Compassion is Holy & helpful by Bible-living!

Compassion is what you do... (pity is what you feel)

- Sympathy is an attitude/feeling
- Compassion is an action/follow-through
- Good Samaritan did 9 acts of compassion

1 Peter 3:8!!!

Compassion is HOW you do...

Compassion can be extremely costly

- When we love...we give ourselves to others
- Compassion's key question:
 - *** NOT... "Who will help me?" (but rather)
 - *** "Who can I help?"

See Jesus in the Good Samaritan!

See ourselves in the victim on the road!

Jonah's Missional Lessons:

I.

- "Now the Word of the Lord came to Jonah/YOU
- "Arise, go to.....and call out against it... evil..."

Note: Go! (vs. "come to us")

Note: Go.... Call them to repentance & belief

Note: Holy implications of His instructions!

- "But Jonah rose to flee..."

Disobedience is the obvious point...

Note: the principle of disobedience morphs...

- A. Don't care...
 - B. Don't listen...
 - C. Don't go...
 - D. "Negotiate"
 - E. Run away!
- See Jonah's sins...

Pride

- A. Telling God "no" in action or attitude
- B. Thinking you can out "run" God
- C. Turning away from "those" kinds of people

Hard-heartedness

- A. Hoarding God's MERCY
- B. Hiding God's GRACE
- C. Hurting God's PEOPLE

Selfishness

- A. My... PERSONAL PREFERENCES
- B. My... PERSPECTIVES & PREJUDICES
- C. My... PET-PROGRAMS & PRIORITIES

Unbelief

- A. Knowing God without KNOWING God...
 - Why do you call Me Lord BUT...
 - Titus 1:10-16
- B. Knowing grace without KNOWING grace
- C. Knowing holiness without... holiness
- D. Knowing love without KNOWING love
- E. Knowing forgiveness without KNOWING...
- F. Knowing blessing without... blessing
- G. Knowing mercy without KNOWING mercy
- H. Knowing empathy without... empathy
- I. Knowing compassion without KNOWING..
- J. Knowing Jesus without KNOWING Jesus!

- See God's sovereignty (see Jesus' sovereignty)

God sovereignly sent His Word (then & now)

God sovereignly sent His storm (then & now)

- A. "Crisis of belief" per Richard Blackaby
- B. See Hebrews 11...
- C. See modern-day martyrs

God sovereignly sent for these sinful sailors!

- A. Read 1:14-16
- B. See how the Lord revealed Himself...

God sovereignly sent His loving discipline!

- A. See Hebrews... sign of a loving Father
- B. The Lord loved enough to "wake him up"

God sovereignly sent MIRACULOUS grace!

- A. Our Great God sent a great fish/Fish!
- B. Jonah's blessing foreshadows ours...
- C. The sign of Jonah = cross & resurrection

T/S: Please note... the Lord did NOT instruct Jonah to invite Ninevites to dinner... No. He sent Jonah to Nineveh. Jonah was to leave Samaria & go to a heathen & hurtful people, in the same way Jesus left heaven to come & help us!

II. Ch.2 = Repentant & Faithfully Obedient Prayer

THEN (from the belly of the fish) Jonah prayed to the Lord...

- A. "I CALLED OUT" to the Lord...
- B. "called out of my DISTRESS..."

"...and He (the Lord) answered me/Jonah"

"...yet you brought up my life from the pit..."

"Salvation belongs to the Lord"

- A. Truth!
- B. Transformation!

"the Lord spoke to the fish...vomited him out"

III. Ch. 3 = Obedience Is NOT Enough...

Jonah had no joy because he had no Jesus... all he had (just like many today) is an oppressive sense of obligation...

Jonah was like the prodigal's older brother

- A. All duty... no delight
- B. All rules... no relationship
- C. All selfish-service... no sanctification/surrender

Ephesians 2:10 = hard work AND heart!

Note: callouses come in 2 types:

- A. Christ-like cross-carrying callouses...
- B. Calculated & corrupted, cancerous callouses...

It always comes down to the heart...

- A. It's not as much about "what" you do...
but rather, "why" and "how" you do it...
- B. Note however, exemplary "how" & "why"
hypothetical-responses do not eliminate
the real & relational call for Christ's
missionally & biblically obedient "what."
- Fairytale portraits of would-have and
could-haves don't cut it in the kingdom.
- Faithful obedience is built upon the

foundation of Christ & HIS trusted
trifecta of truth & love, which will find
its truest & fullest expression through a
Spirit-led "what," "why," & "how."

- Another way to say that is: Faithful
obedience, as called for &
demonstrated in the Bible, is always
Holy AND holistic, to include the
disciple's head, heart, & hands.

IV. Ch. 4 = The Heart of the Matter...

The Lesson of Love (or lack thereof)

Now show the parallel chiasmic arch...

- A. God graciously speaks... to underserving
- B. God graciously seeks... the undeserving
- C. God graciously sends... the undeserving

- His message
- His messengers
- His miraculous (grace)
- His means (repentance, faith, FISH.....)
- His MISSION

~ Don't miss the mission...

~ Don't miss God's heart for:

== The sailors

+++ Once corrupted

+++ Now converted

== The Ninevites

+++ Once corrupted

+++ Now converted
== The neighbors.... OUR neighbors...
== The nation... OUR nation...
== The NATIONS... creation's nations
*** Go into all the world & preach..
*** Matthew 28:18-20
*** John 14:15 & 20:21
*** Acts 1:8
== The CONFLICTED Jonah...
== The CHURCHED-You.....

"Instead of saying: 'I want,' consider saying: 'I will!' - Dr. Thom Rainer

*** See these implications/applications...

1 ABSOLUTE... (ALL-in... No matter what!)
3 APPROACHES...
5 ATTITUDES...
9 ACTIONS....

Thom Rainer's book: "I Will! - 9 Traits of the Outwardly Focused Christian"

*** 9 ACTIONS:

- I will MOVE from I Am to I will! (attitude/action)
- I will WORSHIP (in koinonia)
- I will GROW (in homothoomadon)
- I will SERVE
- I will GO
- I will GIVE (generously with joy)

- I will not be a church DROP-OUT
- I will avoid the "CHURCHIANITY-TRAPS"
- I will MAKE-a-DIFFERENCE!

*** Quoting from his: "I Am A Church Member"

- Read/Quote p.14-15
- See the 5 key "I Am" ATTITUDES:

I Am a FUNCTIONING church member

I Am a UNIFYING church member

* "The health of any group is tied to its unity"

I Am a SACRIFICIAL church member

I Am a PRAYERFUL church member

I Am a JOYFUL church member

* "Grateful people are joyous people."

3 APPROACHES:

1. NO-go
2. Legos - hard, rigid, plastic (pre-formed)
3. Play-dough - clay ready for the Potter's will