Crossroads International Church 2024-09-29 & 2024-10-06

Series: **Unexpected Lessons from Jonah** by Matthew Lyle

**The Reluctant Prophet**

An Unexpected Experience (ch 1)

An Expected Outcome (ch 2)

 **The Repentant People**

An Expected Outcome (ch 3)

An Unexpected Experience (ch 4)

**Problem:** The Prophet of God is Disobedient The People of Ninevah are Obedient

**Summary:** The result of Jonah’s disobedience The result of God’s deferred punishment

 was God’s discipline (ch 1 & 2) of Ninevah was Jonah’s displeasure

**Overview**: Jonah’s Disobedience (ch 1 and Displeasure (ch 4) reveal Deeper Lessons

**Purpose**: To demonstrate God’s Mercy, Sovereignty, Calling, and Plan for Humanity

**Background: Understand Jonah**

1. Ancient Isreal has always been surrounded by powerful empires
2. Ancient Israel’s greatest enemy has always been itself.
3. Throughout Israel’s history, God used a series of prophets to repeatedly warn his people to repent and turn to him
4. Assyria created a vast empire known for its advanced infrastructure, powerful military, and brutal warfare.

I. The **unexpected call** demonstrates God’s compassion for all the world (1:1-2).

 *God loves and cares for “ALL the families of the earth” (Gen 12:3).*

A. Typical introduction and message for a prophet to deliver

B. The Bible acknowledges Jonah as a prophet

C. History acknowledges Assyria as evil

Lesson: We (as the church and as individuals) need to demonstrate compassion for those we consider enemies.

II. The **unexpected response** demonstrates Jonah’s compassion ends with himself (1:3).

 *God’s “people” often fail to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27).*

A. Going “down” indicates “away from God’s presence.”

B. Not only does Jonah go down, he goes the opposite direction and as far as possible.

Lesson: We (as the church and as individuals) need to ask, “what is our Ninevah?”

III. The **unexpected consequences** demonstrate God’s sovereignty over all creation (1:4-16)

 *The earth is the Lord’s (Ps 24:1)*

A. The gentile mariners demonstrated true fear in the face of God’s discipline

B. Jonah’s words did not match is actions.

Lesson: We (as the church and as individuals) need to acknowledge God’s sovereignty with our words and our actions.

IV. The **unexpected provision** demonstrates God’s mercy and discipline (1:17).

 *For the Lord disciplines those He loves' (Prov 3:12).*

A. Mercy demonstrated for both the mariners and for Jonah

B. Jonah’s discipline resulted in a half-hearted psalm of Thanksgiving

Lesson: We (as the church and as individuals) need to accept not just God’s mercy, but also his discipline.

Although Jonah vowed to give sacrifices, he failed to understand that God desires mercy, not sacrifice.

Matt 9:13, 12:7, Hosea 6:6, Isaiah 1:11, Proverbs 21:3, Mark 12:33

Fortunately for us, God does not keep score due to the “infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus” as our Lord (Phil 3:8)