

10 The men knew that he was fleeing from Jehovah - because he had told them so.

When God's child travels the wrong way, or does the wrong thing, or goes into the wrong places, or associates with the wrong people, any word of self - identification may be embarrassing. The godless man had said "If I believed what you say you believe, or professed, what you profess, I would'nt be here, I would'nt do this."

Man can escape from his environment & the people in it, he can avoid facing responsibilities which are unpleasant to him, but he can never escape from himself.

III. God forced Jonah to come out into the open v. 11 - 14

The danger continued - Jonah made a personal confession of his sin -

12 (Take me) - 11 - 12 Jonah chose to perish in the watery deep rather than preach to the Ninevites, He wanted to die.

13 (Every Effort made to save) him 13 - 14 . Cargo thrown over board -- exhausting every effort to turn the ship to land.

(Never Escape) - Presence of God --- Psa. 139: 7-12
- Power " " --- " 8: 3-9 Matt. 28:18
- Purpose " " --- Luke 13: 1-5
- Plan " " --- Phil. 2:9-11 Rev. 5:13

14 (Innocent blood)

THE CHASTISEMENT OF A PREACHER

Jonah 1:4-17

Intro: God does call preachers. As Samuel Shoemaker has said, until something happens to us & in us, it will not happen through us.

Impossible to push & for God to work through you until something has happened inside - a real genuine call.

(God's ways with a preacher are often strange) - He may call a man from behind the pulpit and place him before an editor's desk, or into some other field of christian service.

You have seen a (horse that jumps & dances) all over the place whenever he sees his shadow. There are preachers just as "spooky", afraid that they are not equal to their task, or side step their responsibility.

Many great lessons are brought out in the verses we consider

- ✓ First, God has a definite place & work for every man.
- ✓ Second, Every man can find God's place for him & do the work God would have him do if he will.
- ✓ Third, if man turns away from God & refuses to do the work God has for him to do, he will have to pay an awful price for his rebellion.

(Laymen)

I. God Stopped Jonah in the midst of his effort to get away
V. 4-5

Impressed by the distinct turn of things - strange events-

4 (Storm) - furious - Jehovah sent - howling madness. This was no ordinary disturbance of wind & waves, it was extraordinary.

The wideness of the greatness of this storm are quite emphatic:

1. God sent - strong word - Jehovah God cast out, or hurled forth the tempest of mighty madness upon the sea. This was no common squall at sea, but a "mighty tempest".

Seen the ocean during storm - hurricane - power to destroy beach - houses - ships etc.

4-2. Ship tossed - point of being destroyed or broken apart.

5-3. Mariners - V. 5. Great Fear. These men felt that their ship was about to be broken apart. & that their lives were in danger.

These "old salts", seasoned seamen, veterans of many high winds & rough tides - But this storm made them tremble. (Salt encrusted clothing from spray)

They hurled over board the commercial cargo & furnishings & tackle. These men were skilled & had sailed many times upon the sea -

They called upon their gods or duties.

5-4. The preacher - strange spectacle - the sleeping run away prophet in the storm distressed ship -

Do not know (how much time elapsed between the call) of Jonah & his boarding the ship - may have fought the call for several weeks or months before attempting to get away from the call.

It is certain that every hour of it was filled with terrific tensions & a real struggle. It was sad rebellion against God. It was inner warfare, a spiritual battle

Jonah had now given way to (physical exhaustion) & emotional prostration. He fell into a deep sleep.

(Sleep) - be in, or fall into, heavy sleep - The idea is described as the deep sleep that God caused to fall on the first man when he removed a sidepiece for the making of the woman.

He had (gone down into) the innermost parts of the ship -- probably went beyond the normal arrangements. He was adamant in his purpose, he must have wanted complete seclusion, even the deep, undisturbed sleep to forget. This would silence the divine voice, this would give relief! He was aboard ship, away from land, & on his way from Ninevah, and away from God's call. This sleep was not to last long.

(A sleeping christian & a perishing world.)

II. God disclosed to the world what Jonah had done - 6 - 10

There circumstances led to the exposure of evil -

6-1. Question - What meanest thou, O sleeper? Dread alarm - sleep was at an end, & This sleep was abruptly ended - Jonah faced realities again.

Brought Jonah back to consciousness - The voice of God could not be hushed in the sweet silence of sleep. He must face God again - he must face the realities.

A pagan skipper, even commanded that Jonah pray for mercy - arise call upon thy God.

7-2. Casting Lots / V. 7 Through the Mechanical unenlightened means the men sought to discover the guilty party -- "Lots fell on Jonah".

We know that chance was no coincidence, the lot had to fall on guilty Jonah. A symbol of the certainty of sin's exposure! Rebellion against God cannot long be successfully hidden --

8-3. Bombardment of Questions -- V. 8 Tell us --

Whose cause this evil is upon us?

What is thine occupation?

What is your country?

Where do you come from?

What people are you from?

These questions were not pointless - They were marked by intensity - What is your business here on this ship and why are you taking this trip?

9-4. His Answer V. 9 The more he told the more he revealed his rebellion.

(I fear Jehovah) - a customary expression of introduction by an Israelite, His national identity - This was the God of Israel whom he defiantly disobeyed.

A cringing of fear - such fear as the guilty criminal feels (God made this sea) ---

(7) It enabled God to empower Jonah's message and thus turn the whole city of Ninevah to repentance.

Author said - "affliction is the best book in my library. The best leaf in the book of affliction is that blackest of all the pages, the leaf called 'heaviness', when the spirit sinks within us, & we cannot endure as we could wish."

Chrysanthemum - Gardner - How do you manage to produce, maroon blossoms - we concentrate on all strength of plant on one or two blossoms - all other plant to bear all flowers, not one is worth showing. Forgive blossom not cut away.

God cuts away the useless blossoms of self & ease to bring you to perfection - a flower fit to be planted in the garden of God.

IV. Paying the Price of Rebellion - 15 - 17

15 - Supposed that the watery grave - was a "offering of sacrifice" unto Jehovah by these agan men.

Alas, (God would not allow Jonah to Die) God had a purpose for him -- He was (not permitted to sleep), nor to Die.

17 - A great fish - The miracle was not so much the big fish, but in being perserved alive for a period of three days in the stomach of the fish and then being ijected alive, and without serious injury.

(Prepared) means literally to number or to (count). Not that he created one then and there, but that it was a particular fish, one numbered of God for place time and purpose -- one for providential use.

God made special appointment of a great fish for the specific purpose of swallowing his rebellions prophet.

Chastisement of God was upon him - he was paying the price of rebellion.

A young man's father must have known this story when he counseled his son. His son a student in college - standing by door of corn crib while his father worked inside. His father asked, "Son, what do you expect to do with your life? -- With this question he had wrestled for months -- sleepless nights. at last his decision was made, but strictly guarded with fear and timidity. But his father's question demanded an open honest commitment. With emotion, the youth told him that he felt that God was calling him to preach the Gospel. There was a period of silence then came these unforgettable and cherished words of counsel: "Son, if God is calling you to preach you had better preach!"

The Tempestuous storm which swept down upon the ship in WHICH which Jonah was felling to tarshish did not come by accident. It was sent for a special purpose

God deals with the ungodly only in Judgment!

Noah's day - Gen 6:1

Sodom and Gomorrah - Gen 19:1

Egypt - Deut. 11: 2 - 9 Ex. 5.

So. N.Y. May 12, 1957 P.M.

God's Chastisements are visited upon His people!

Hebrews 12: 3-12

1. Five things about his Chastisement

(1) Even Christ had to endure terrible opposition

Contradictions of the ungodly. Surely we are not better than he.

(2) Average Christian suffers from too few trials rather than from too many

(3) Chastisements calls for improvement and encouragement rather than discouragement

(4) Chastisements come to all his people

2. Sevenfold purpose of his Chastisements

(1) They give concrete assurance that we are the children of God. V. 7-8

(2) They should never be regarded lightly. V. 9
God always has a purpose in them

(3) Every Chastisement is an expression of God's Love - V. 6

Ps. 106:41-44 "He gave them into the hand of the heathen & they that hated them ruled over them."

(4) Meet Every chastisement of God with submission and reverence V. 9

10 (5) They are for our improvement - correction and profit V. 10

Prov. 3:11 - My son despise not the chastening of the Lord neither be weary of his correction. For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

11 (6) Chastisement received in the right spirit produces only "Fruits of Righteousness" V. 11

Enrichment by - Home + mill + men washed away by flood. stood on bank - all possessions gone - chance to see something bright on the bank washed back by the flood "it looked like gold". it was gold + he was rich.

12 (7) They call for encouragement to live a better life

Prov. 3:19 As many as love, discipline & chasten V. 12
be zealous therefore, & repent.

3. God's Special Chastisement of Jonah
(For correction and Testing.)

Great storm - Great distress - Great Fish -
Great three Days & nights of agony - Great Deliverance.
This chastisement accomplished

(1) Prevented him from getting away to tarshish - as he had planned.

(2) Revealed to Jonah his powerlessness in fighting against God.

(3) Jonah's experience helped those on the ship to believe.

(4) Brought Jonah back in line with God's merciful purpose to save Ninevah.

(5) It caused Jonah to make a complete surrender to God.

(6) It brought Jonah to God's chosen place of work.