

Jonah 2 Radical Redirection

Jesus

I. Radical Redirection

What happens when God's man is willfully out of God's will?
God will bring pain/discontentment until he comes to himself

Luke 15:17 ...but when he came to himself he said ...**18 I will arise and go to my father...**

Jonah 1:17 [Jonah is out of God's will] so the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And **Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.**

1 Then Jonah prayed to **the Lord his God** from the fish's belly. **2** And he said: "I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction, And **He answered me.** "Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, And **You heard my voice.**

Psalm 42:7 [Sons of Korah] **Deep calls unto deep** at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me.

Psalm 119:67 [Purpose in pain] Before I was afflicted I went astray, **But now I keep Your word.**

Radical Redirection

Hebrews 12:5b... "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; **6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens,** And scourges every son whom He receives." **7 If** you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? **8** But if you are without chastening, of which all [true sons] have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. **9** Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be **in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?** **10** For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but **He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.** **11** Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the **peaceable fruit of** [change to] **righteousness to those who have been** [allowed themselves to be] **trained** by it. **12** Therefore [learn from the pain...] strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, **13** and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame [in others] may not be dislocated, **but rather be healed.**

Affliction brings one of two results: Get bitter or get better
Bitterness will disable others. Better-ness will heal others

IOWs I take full responsibility for the consequences of my sin
I said no to a Holy God...And I received less than I deserved

After three Days/Night Jonah chose to get better
Chose to trust in his good God: This pain is for my good/God's purpose

Aligning our rebellious heart with God's will/purpose sometimes requires God's painful intervention to accomplish His radical redirection in our lives. [NJC]

3 For **You** cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the floods surrounded me; All **Your** billows and **Your** waves passed over me.

Jonah realized God had cast him into the sea
You afflicted me. You heard my voice. You answered me

4 Then I said, '**I have been cast out** of Your sight...

Jonah got what he wanted...To be out of God's sight
We think we know what we want...Till God allows us to have it

4b ...Yet **I will look again** toward Your holy temple.'

You cast me out...Yet I trust you will restore me

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 **If we confess our sins, He is faithful** and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Jonah redirected from rebellion toward the will of God
Redirected from self-will to God's will/His holy temple

1 Kings 8:38 ...whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one **knows the plague of his own heart**, and spreads out his hands **toward this temple**: 39 then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and **forgive, and act...**

2 Chronicles 6:38 [To those outside the nation]...pray toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen, and **toward the temple** which I have built for Your name...

- Not sure Solomon had a man in a fish near Spain in mind
- Jonah prayed toward the direction God first told him to go

Detailed description of inside the fish
Water. Seaweed. Mountains on the Sea Floor. Darkness

5 The **waters surrounded me, even to my soul**; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head. 6 I went down to the moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars closed behind me forever...

Psalms 69:1 Save me, O God! For the **waters have come up to my neck**.

Lamentations 3:54 The **waters flowed over my head**; I said, "I am cut off!"

6b ...Yet **You have** brought up my life from the pit

Note: You have [past tense] brought up my life from the pit
Jonah praised God for the answer to prayer...before it came

Mark 11:24 ...whatever things you ask when you pray, **believe that you receive them,** and you will have them.

6c ...O Lord, my God.

Jonah yields to His Good God

Isaiah 38:17 Indeed it was for **my own peace** That I had great bitterness; But You have **lovingly delivered my soul** from the pit of corruption, For You have cast all my sins behind Your back.

7 "When my soul fainted within me, **I remembered the Lord**; And my prayer went up to You, Into Your holy temple. 8 "Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own Mercy.

When we are near death...Our life passes before our eyes
Empty wastes of time/Useless Idols/Selfishness/Self-centeredness

9 But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will **pay what I have vowed.**

At one time or another Jonah had probably said what we all have said: "Lord, I'll do whatever You want me to do." Now Jonah realized fully that he must stop resisting God and he should pay [that vow] to God. [Guzik]

I will gratefully sacrifice all I have/All I am for You/others
I will fulfill Your purpose in my life. Jonah confesses...

9b... Salvation is of the Lord.

Psalms 50:23 ... to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the **salvation of God.**

Jeremiah 3:23 ... in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, And from the multitude of mountains; Truly, in the **Lord our God Is the salvation of Israel.**

As Jonah prays he is at the same time being moved in the direction of God's will

10 So the Lord spoke to the fish, and it **vomited Jonah onto dry land.**

The LORD spoke to the fish: This is where Jonah gets off
Jonah sees the light of day after 3 days: Type of Jesus resurrection from the dead

Isaiah 53:11 From the labor of His soul **He shall see light**

Matthew 12:39 An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the **sign of the prophet Jonah.**

Sign of Jonah?
The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead after Three Days...

Pointing towards the Messiah to come, Jesus Christ, we see that Jonah's deliverance came after a remarkable demonstration of laying down one's life. Jonah gave his life to appease the wrath of God coming upon others. But death did not hold him; after three days and nights of imprisonment, **he was alive and free.** [Guzik]

So? Even when we say no to God His purpose will be fulfilled

Q. What if Jonah took off to Tarshish again?

A. God would have prepared another fish.

Jonah 3 Radical Repentance

Jesus

Three Books Satan *really* Hates

- **Genesis** Satan's Demise Pronounced
- **Daniel** God's Word Validated: Precise prophecies fulfilled
- **Jonah** **Resurrection of Jesus Christ:** Victory over Satan's hold on death

After 3 days in a fish Jonah's strange appearance was a sign to Ninevah

- Bleached/Bald/Patchy/Fishy

Luke 11:30 ...as Jonah became a **sign to the Ninevites**, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation.

After 3 days in the grave Jesus glorious appearance was a sign to all men

Matthew 12:40 ...as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

After the Resurrection men are now left w/out excuse for unbelief, thus...
The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the guarantee of coming judgment

Acts 17:30 Times of ignorance God overlooked, but **now commands all men everywhere to repent**, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by **raising Him from the dead."**

I. Jonah Preaches

1 Now **the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time**, saying, **2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you."**

It is commonly thought that Jonah was vomited out on the shores of Nineveh — but we are not told that this was the case, especially because Nineveh is about 375 miles from the

Mediterranean Sea. If Jonah did walk into Nineveh right from the belly of the fish, it would have been a miraculous projection of the fish's vomit.

God was determined to work through Jonah. Arise and go 2X
When you finally get there preach the message 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, a three-day journey *in extent*. **4** And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, **"Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"**

II. People Believe Offer Received

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

Matthew 3:7 ...when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance...**

If repentance is anything, it is not business as usual. When repentance comes, **something has to change and something** has to be different. In their case, the people of Nineveh took off their normal clothes and put on sackcloth — a thick coarse cloth, normally made from goat's hair. Wearing it displayed the rejection of earthly comforts and pleasures.

Matthew 12:41 The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because **they repented at the preaching of Jonah**; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.

- **Jonah's day:** Nineveh repented after an 8 word sermon
- **Jesus day:** Miracles/healing/resurrection and still did not repent

God loves when people repent

Ezekiel 33:11 'As I live,' says the Lord God, **'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked,** but that the wicked **turn from his way and live.** Turn, turn from your evil ways!

6 Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and **laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes.**

Daniel 3:29 [Nebuchadnezzar's repentance after 7 years of pain] Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this."

- **Q.** Do we always need to feel pain before repentance as Jonah/Neb?
- **A.** No. Just realize our badness/God's goodness and turn as this King

We do not obligate God to forgive us when we repent. Instead, repentance appeals to **God's mercy, not His justice.** [Guzik]

Repentance: A Gift to be Received

- **Repent:** Turn from sin. Turn to God. Change of mind

2 Timothy 2:25 [Humbly correct]... those who are in opposition, if **God perhaps will grant them repentance** so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

Repentance: An Opportunity to be Refreshed

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that **times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...**

Repentance: An offer that can be Rejected

Isaiah 28:12 ... [God to Israel/Judah] "This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest," And **"This is the refreshing"; Yet they would not hear.** [Offer rejected]

Matthew 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, **but you were not willing!** [Offer rejected]

Mass Repentance: Ninevah heard/received/repented/were refreshed
Exactly what Jonah had hoped would not happen

Mass Repentance: The Worldwide Church of God underwent a significant "repentance" or reform process starting in the late 1980s and early 1990s, moving away from its distinctive [false] teachings to become more aligned with mainstream evangelical Protestantism. This transformation included rejecting the exclusive teachings of its founder, Herbert W. Armstrong, and was characterized by a change in its theology and practices, a shift that led the organization to rename itself Grace Communion International in 2009. *Hank Hanagraf assisted.* [Offer Received]

- **8 Word sermon:** King of Ninevah Repents...

7 And he caused *it* to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. **8** But let man and **beast be covered with sackcloth**, and cry mightily to God; yes, let everyone **turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.**

The King of Ninevah knew Ninevah's sin: Evil ways/Violent hands!
Even animals were clothed in sackcloth!

9 Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?

The King is Allowing God to be God: Proof the Offer was Received
Who can tell? He knew Grace/Mercy were not an entitlement

Joel 2:14 Who knows if He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him...

Amos 5:15 Hate evil, love good; Establish justice in the gate. **It may be that the Lord God of hosts Will be gracious...**

God loves to show His goodness to those who repent!

10 Then **God saw** their works, that **they turned** from their evil way; and **God relented** from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

Deuteronomy 18:20 But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, **that prophet shall die.** 21 And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?'— 22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if **the thing does not happen or come to pass**, that is the thing which the **Lord has not spoken**; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

Q. So...Did God's relenting prove Jonah was a false prophet. **A.** No.
God acted in *total consistency* with His Word...

Jeremiah 18:7 The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, 8 **if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent** of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it.

God may relent after repentance
In light of their repentance He delayed the promised judgment

God did judge Nineveh later...

Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel 28-48 yrs after Jonah prophesied to Nineveh. 120 yrs after taking Israel Assyria was judged as described in the Book of Nahum....

Nahum 3:1 Woe to [Nineveh] the bloody city! It is all full of lies and robbery. Its victim never departs. 2 The noise of a whip And the noise of rattling wheels, Of galloping horses, Of clattering chariots! 3 Horsemen charge with bright sword and glittering spear. There is a multitude of slain, A great number of bodies, Countless corpses— They stumble over the corpses— 4 Because of the multitude of harlotries of the seductive harlot, The mistress of sorceries, Who sells nations through her harlotries, **And families** through her sorceries.

For now...Nineveh Repents. Heaven rejoices

Luke 15:10 ...there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents

Jonah 4:4 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and **he became angry.**