

Running With The Giants

Jonah

June 17, 2018

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Key Thought: For when you've made bad choices... "God always gives you a second chance."

Jonah 1:1-5 The word of the LORD came to Jonah: "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... 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.

How to Recover from Bad Choices:

- ✓ Take responsibility for your bad choice.

Jonah 1:12 "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."

Proverbs 28:13 (LB) A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance.

John Wooden: You are not a failure until you start blaming others for your mistakes.

- ✓ Repent and turn away from the bad choice you made.

Jonah 2:9 "...What I have vowed I will make good..."

Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

Bruce Wilkerson: Repentance means you change your mind so deeply that it changes you.

- ✓ Embrace God's grace.

Jonah 3:1 Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time...

John Maxwell: Grace always runs downhill, it met me when I was at the bottom, not the top.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Bad Choices Should Never:

✓ Define you.

Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

✓ Disqualify you.

Warren Wiersbe: The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God can't keep you and the power of God can't use you.

How to Safeguard Against Making Bad Choices:

1. Use God's Word to guide you.

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

2. Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom.

John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.

Ask yourself these questions before making a decision:

- Are my choices God-honoring?
- How will this affect my spiritual health? Will it draw me closer to God...especially in our relationships....
- How will this decision affect the people closest to me?

3. Seek Godly counsel.

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

Walk Away: You are only one defining decision away from a totally different life.