



DAY 6

KODI SELLS

Greetings Victory family! Welcome to day six of our Unto the Lord fast. It's always a privilege to be with you and get to share what the Lord has laid on my heart for this week.

We've been deep diving this entire week into faithfulness, not just God's faithfulness but even our own unto the Father. I'm sure you've been walking strong through this week focused on what God's faithfulness means to you, however, I'd like to challenge you to ask yourself, "What does your faithfulness mean to the God?"

I had been impressed to share today about the story of Jonah. This is a man who was called by God, but also ran away from the Lord. He was a man who was ultimately met with the faithfulness of the Lord. Let's jump into it and read together in the book of Jonah.

Jonah 1:1-3 (NKJV)

"Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "'Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.' But Jonah arose 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 from the presence of the Lord."

So here we start out with Jonah, a Hebrew man, who both loved and feared the Lord. Jonah received a distinct calling from the Lord: "Go to the city and cry out for it." Instead, Jonah decided to lean into disobedience and essentially tried to run from the Lord's calling. Let's keep reading.

Jonah 1:4-17 (NKJV)

But the Lord sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.

So the captain came to him, and said to him, ‘What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish.’ And they said to one another, ‘Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us.’ So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, ‘Please tell us! For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?’ So 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.’

Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, ‘Why have you done this?’ For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. Then they said to him, ‘What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?’ – for the sea was growing more tempestuous. And he said to them, ‘Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me.’

Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them. Therefore they cried out to the Lord and said, ‘We pray, O Lord, please do not let us perish for this man’s life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O Lord, have done as it pleased You.’ So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord and took vows.

Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”

One of the big things we learn here is that Jonah’s disobedience didn’t cancel God’s purpose or calling he had for Jonah’s life. The Lord sent a fish to swallow Jonah away for three days. And what did this cause Jonah to do? Pray! That’s exactly right! Jonah’s disobedience didn’t cancel God’s calling, it simply delayed it.

Throughout this story Jonah was still faithful in offering himself to be thrown into the sea to correct the wrongdoing. God was still faithful in saving Jonah from himself by hiding him away in a place where he could do nothing but pray and seek God, even if that place was stinky and disgusting. The belly of a fish is not the place I’d want to be in. Yet, it was a safe place to seek the Lord!

Just because the Lord doesn’t provide you with the most ideal, most beautiful, or most desirable place (from an earthly ideal) does not mean He is not being faithful! This just means that God may be realigning and refocusing you toward His calling and purposes again. Let’s read just a bit more about Jonah after he was swallowed.

Jonah 2:1--2, 10 (NKJV)

“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.’ So the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.”

Jonah 3:1--10 (NKJV)

“Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, ‘Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.’ 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. 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!’

So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. 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. 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. 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. Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?’

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.”

Jonah, after being spit up from the fish, went to Ninevah and did what he was originally called to do. Jonah had been broken, surrendered and fully humbled. Due to this process God helped to produce in Jonah faithfulness. Much like an olive; you can’t see that it contains oil until it’s been pressed and crushed. Jonah not only had a fresh spirit of obedience and surrender, he now had a fortified form of faithfulness in the Lord. He did not have this type of faithfulness before he decided to run away. However, through this final act of obedience an entire city came into repentance, reformation, and awakening to God. Hallelujah!

A few questions I'd like to leave you with today before I finish:

Have you been running away from “the Ninevehs” or things that God has called you to?

Have you or are you currently going through a “belly of the fish” moment that makes you stop, submit, and surrender freshly to the Lord through obedience and prayer?

You may feel stuck, tired, weary, or even depleted in your life. Do not forget that God's word, Jesus' blood, and His calling still stand! They are mighty declarations over your life. Remember GOD'S CALL ON YOUR LIFE HAS NOT CHANGED.....HE IS STILL FAITHFUL! So, let this be an opportunity for your faithfulness in the Lord to be fortified like Jonah. Let the Lord renew and recommission you to His calling on your life. Keep beholding Him, never stop looking at the face of Jesus the perfect lamb. By Him should the Father be continually revealed to you.

Let's Pray...

Thanks for joining me today Victory family. May your spirits be encouraged and strengthened as you walk out the final days of the fast with renewed fire and faithfulness! I look forward to being in worship with you this weekend as we continue to seek the face of the Lord together!