

Sunday Message Meditation

February 1, 2015

Text: *Jonah*

Message Meditation:

Scenes / Chapter Divisions from the book of Jonah:

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| 1. Jonah runs from God. | God chooses a messenger. |
| 2. Jonah turns to God. | God perseveres with His messenger. |
| 3. Jonah does God's will. | God's will accomplished through His messenger. |
| 4. Jonah is angry with God. | God cares for messengers, cities and cattle. |

Some lessons from the text:

1. Jonah's rebellion was inspired by his faith in God and his broken values.
 - a. Jonah knew and understood God to be gracious, merciful, patient, and abounding in steadfast love. His understanding of God was not theoretical, but actual. (Jonah 4:1-2)
 - b. Jonah knew God – but did not want what God wanted. Their values were not in agreement.
 - c. God would use this experience to discipline, educate and change one of His own.
 - d. Paul encourages Timothy, and us, to watch our life and doctrine closely. (I Tim. 4:16)
2. Jonah's disobedience was costly to himself and others.
 - a. Disobedience to God doesn't just mess up our lives – but others as well. It's inevitable.
 - b. When you act contrary to God's will, you can't begin to calculate the harm done to yourself and others.
 - c. Don't be deceived into thinking your disobedience only effects yourself.
3. Jonah's values should line up with God's values.
 - a. Not only is disobedience costly – it's also confusing.
 - b. It's confusing when people claim to be Christians but don't live Christ-like lives.

Message Application Questions:

1. Are you able to examine your life and beliefs closely – making sure they are in agreement? What help does the repentant community (the Church) provide you in watching your life and doctrine?
2. Is there reluctance in your heart toward the things for which God's heart is passionate?
3. Is there a past failure in your life that makes you feel unusable by God? What do you learn from God's actions with Jonah?
4. How can you increase your affections for the things that God loves, and kill your affections for the things that God dislikes?