

Life Application Notes

Week beginning 5th September 2020

Jonah Part 2. 'Lost at Sea'

Chris Kilby

Opening Up

Think of a time that you have deliberately done the opposite of what was asked of you, amusing or serious. How did the situation resolve? Did you end up doing what you were asked?

Digging In

God speaks to Jonah

Read Jonah 1:1-6. Why did Jonah have this reaction to the task which God had set him? Have a look at bibleodyssey.org/en/places/related-articles/nineveh-as-sin-city to remind yourself of how Chris described Nineveh. How does an Israelite prophet being called to the capital of a neighbouring, soon-to-be hostile nation compare to the other prophets, who were given the mission to call Israel back to God?

Read John 1:1-5. Speaking about this chapter, A. W. Tozer said "...it is the nature of god to speak, to communicate his thoughts to others and he would be right. ... self-expression is inherent in the godhead; that God is forever seeking to speak himself out ... he is by his nature continuously articulate, he fills the world with his speaking voice."

- How do we hear God speaking in our lives?
- What prompts do we hear from God? Commands, promises, prophesy, etc?

Jonah ran away

Jonah could not reconcile his understanding of God with God's apparent desire to bring the Ninevites into his love.

Chris jokingly outlined the "5 Steps to Make Your Life Worse". See if you can find each of these in Jonah 1:1-6

1. Think wrongly. *Jonah concluded God must be wrong or cruel to give him this assignment*
2. Take a first step in the wrong direction. *Jonah's first step was to travel south west to Joppa, rather than north east to Nineveh*
3. Grow comfortable with rebellion. *Jonah kept up his rebellion, taking a ship. He knew that going to Joppa would lead to this, didn't reign himself in.*

4. Get invested in your decision. *Jonah committed money to his disobedience, paying the fare to get to Tarshish.*
5. Get on board and sail. *By the time he boarded the ship, he was no longer in control of his situation. He was now at the mercy of the sailors and the elements.*

God sent a storm

Look at the sailors' reaction to the storm that God sends in verses 5 and 6. How does the sailors' expression of faith and fear of God compare to Jonah's? We should take note of the sailors' first reaction to trouble - our first reaction to adversity should be to pray!

Chris promoted the "3 Steps to Heaven":

1. Trust God!! The whole thing got worse when he didn't trust God and remember the basics: he is good, trustworthy, powerful, and right.
2. Pray. Let it be the first thing you go to, morning, noon and night. Why would we not talk to the God who wants to talk to us?
3. Love and serve your neighbour. Jonah thought that if he just kept his head down, it would pass over. Covid will not just pass over, we should get stuck into serving the needs of the City.

Rounding Off

Where can we learn from the culture around us on how best to serve our neighbours? Pray that we can not run away from the challenges that God sets before us, and encourage each other with the 3 Steps to Heaven.