

How to Deliver a Courageous and Compassionate Message to All

The simple story of Jonah goes back thousands of years. At first mention, the story might conjure up images of a man praying from the stomach of a big fish. But God is painting a much bigger story for us. He is painting an illustration for us to learn through the life of Jonah about His nature, the nature of mankind, and His impending judgment and ultimate lovingkindness for all.

Background

- We read in (2 Kings 14:25) that Jonah prophesied during the reign of King Jeroboam II of Israel.
- King Jeroboam II was one of the longest serving kings of Israel during a time when Israel's boundaries were extended to what they once were under Solomon.
- The book of Jonah is unique in that it is a historical narrative and there is no record of the prophecies of Jonah.
- Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria and one of the largest cities in the known world. (Gen 10:11)

Often times Jonah is used as an example in lessons of how not to act, instead of looking at the bigger picture it offers.

Character

- 1) Look _____ instead of dwelling on past circumstances.
 - a. Jonah _____ and had _____ communication with God after running away from His presence. (Jonah 2)

Motive

- 2) Significant events and memorable moments in life influence what _____ we make.
 - a. You have a powerful ability to _____ those around you. Jonah recognized his wrongdoing when he was on the boat, and sloshing about inside the fish. He had no idea about the lasting impact his life would have on others. (Jonah 1)

Time

- 3) Time is one of the very few items in life we have _____ over. Choose what you do, and how you do it, carefully. Are you spending your time running away from those around you, or are you spending it around those you enjoy spending it with?
 - a. God does not view time as we do. (2 Peter 3:8, Psalms 90:4)

Compassion

- 4) God had compassion for the city of Nineveh because they followed his command, while Jonah burned with stubbornness and anger.
 - a. Jonah _____ compassion for stubbornness and anger. (Jonah 4)