

## **Lessons From Jonah**

Welcome To Harvest Community Church

Series: Soul-Winning 101

**Text: Jonah 3:1-2, Matthew 16:4**

Jonah is one of the great **soul-winning** / missionary stories of the Bible.

One of the greatest needs we have today is to have men and women completely **surrendered** to God, for His plan and purposes for our lives. We know it is God's **will** for all of us to be soul-winners. Just like Jonah, God has given us all a word.

### **Jonah 1:1-2**

- 1) God had a **specific** assignment in mind for his life, He does for us as well. There are works God has predestined for each of us. **Ephesians 2:10**

There are times we are the one God has prepared to speak to certain people. He sets the time and place. These are called **divine** appointments, both the assignment and the timing.

- 2) There will be times we will be **uncomfortable** with the message God wants us to bring.

- 3) You know your life and heart for the lost are not in the right place when you are trying to **avoid** being with God. **Jonah 1:3, Psalm 139:7-10**

Jonah is a type of person who wants to have a relationship with God but not with the **people** to whom he is called.

There will always be a **price** to pay when we are not willing to follow the plan God has for your life. Many times it is the time and personal resources and strength wasted in our own endeavors.

- 4) Realize that our disobedience to God can throw other's lives into **turmoil**.

### **Jonah 1:4-5**

The world is in turmoil today. People live in great fear yet, just like Jonah, many churches and Christians are **asleep**, concerned with their own comfort. Jonah was concerned for his well-being only. **Apathy** has become commonplace today. It took a divine intervention from God to wake him up. Notice the world was rousing the prophet. **Jonah 1:6** The ship's captain even knew the answer to the turmoil was to **pray**. Call on God!

- 5) Our disobedience to God brings **fear** to others. **Jonah 1:10-15**

We must remember the message it sends when God's own people run from Him. Eventually a dead, soft, self serving religion must be thrown overboard. Our disobedience will eventually bring God's **discipline**.

This will turn people to the Lord. **Jonah 1:16**

- 6) Even in our disobedience God is in control of motivating us for His purpose – He prepared a fish. **Jonah 1:17** Notice God wasn't in a hurry, He gave Jonah time to think, 3 days. Jonah was still hard of heart and thick headed.
- 7) It is only in trials that you discover mercy; and it is often only in failure that you fully begin to understand grace. We are in a day when over 6 billion need to hear the word of God. We are also in a time when many Christians are experiencing trials like never before. Is it possible that God is teaching and waking a complacent church? **Jonah 2:1-9**  
Jonah cried out in his affliction, he started running from God but realized his true desire for God when He distanced Himself from him. It was here that he understood the weight that others carried and he rediscovered the depth of God's salvation.
- 8) When you are ready to reach the lost God will put you on solid ground.  
**Jonah 2:10** He will give a second chance to fulfill your calling. **Jonah 3:1-3**
- 9) One person's obedience can make the difference in multitudes.  
**Jonah 3:5 & 10**  
People you never ever dreamed would turn to God many times, will when given the opportunity. Soul-winners are often pleasantly surprised.
- 10) Soul-Winners will have the opportunity to face and correct any attitudes that aren't like Christ's. **Jonah 4:1-4**  
By faith receive the Lord's instruction and allow it to change the way you think.
- 11) It is important that we always maintain an eternal perspective in our dealing with people. **Jonah 4:9-11**