



Jonah 4:1-3

Jonah's Problem 🔥 Sun, Sept 9th 2007



Some people I don't understand– because they don't get it

- How someone can be a ranger at the Grand Canyon...and not see God's majesty – **Ps 19**
- How doctors and scientists can see intricacies of life...and think it is accident – **Ps 139**
- How can they see, know...& yet not see, know

If made list of those who “just don't get it”–Top w/b Jonah

- A man, child of God, knows God & His Word, serves
- Used by God in one of greatest city revivals in history
 - **4:11** says 120m – perhaps little kids
 - Factor out - over million people- WOW!
- If happened today – say in Damascus, Syria
 - Excited...want to hear from man used
 - Assume he so tight, with and like God
 - God worked in Nineveh in spite of Jonah
- Jonah, just doesn't get it – out of touch- **4:1**
 - one repents – rejoicing in heaven....
 - God is happy, Nineveh happy– Jonah unhappy
 - Almost comical to picture it – seems crazy

This morning...why did Jonah respond this way?

I. Knows who God is, what wants

1. Jonah has a clear, correct understanding of who God is

- a. If didn't know God, His character—perhaps understand
- b. But Jonah does know God – correctly v. 2
- c. This list of God's attributes often found in Bible
 - i) Ex 34:5-7 – to Moses
 - ii) 1 Tim 2:3-4; 2 Pet 3:9; Eze 33:11

2. Jonah knew this about God – didn't effect him rightly

- a. Part of point of knowing God is to develop in us His heart
 - i) 2Cor 3:18. Eph 4:11-15
- b. But for Jonah, knowing God did not change him...

II. Why does Jonah Disagree?

1. It doesn't clearly spell it out in the Bible

- a. Personally – like. Whenever Bible is ambiguous on things like this – makes it more applicable

2. Could be racism, prejudice

- a. Jews did growingly become this way
- b. Saw Gentiles as only good for kindgling for hell

Rabbi Moses ben Maimon(1135-1204) "Gentiles with whom we are not at war: One must not directly cause their death, but it is forbidden to save them if they are about to die. For example, if one sees a Gentile falling into the sea, it is forbidden to pull him out...One is not permitted to heal Gentiles, even for payment."

3. Could be fear of man

- a. Worried about what others would say in Israel

4. Could be patriotism

- a. Consider – God has spoken by Amos – judgment is coming on Israel – from Assyria
 - i) Could have developed such hatred for these
 - ii) For Jews – serious struggle – Habakkuk
- b. What if said to us – about Iran?
 - i) Can happen – today – Muslims, Iran

5. Could be bitterness

- a. Maybe it was personal – loss, pain, family, friend
- b. Assyria raids – not have a personal grudge

6. Could be one of these, others – but he hates them

7. Before pass – here such wrong thoughts should die

- a. Racism, prejudice, favoritism – dies here
 - i) All level at the foot of the cross- all one
 - ii) Gal 3:28, Rev 7:9; Jam 2:1
- b. Honestly – you struggle with some form of this
 - i) Race? Age? Style? Position?
 - ii) Yet need to see in light of eternity
- c. For me – wish church represented this
 - i) Often have “style churches”
 - ii) If I could have church I want – all

8. Lets go deeper – Jonah’s problem...is an “I” problem

- a. How he feels is different than God – exalts self
- b. Not unusual...in fact all sin comes from this
- c. In English – “I” is the center letter of sin, pride

III. How handle when disagree w/God

1. When God's character & will is different than yours, What will you do...what do you do?

- a. Maybe it is something you want – God says no to
 - i) Maybe it is a job, a relationship, a healing
- b. Maybe it is something you don't want-He says yes to
 - i) Maybe it is someone, type – don't like-He does
- c. Maybe it is something you don't like about God's ways
 - i) Not ok with exclusivity of Christ, or of hell

2. Notice how Jonah deals this

- a. Jonah Pouts...pointlessly
 - i) Picture a three year old temper tantrum
- b. See how comical...foolish it looks
 - i) Foolish in a child, for Jonah, for Christians
 - ii) Not going to get your way...
 - iii) Missing out – robbing self of time, joy
- c. Yet today – are many Jonah's pouting in disagreement
 - i) Some not hear today, not in church because

3. How do we deal with this battle right? Listen to Jesus

- a. **Luke 9:23** – if want to follow – have to say no to self
- b. Further, have to take up cross – how? **Luke 22:42**
- c. Perhaps here is key, the rub - it is a daily battle
 - i) No one time solution, but a daily surrender
- d. The need is to daily – cross out the “I” in me
 - i) Done in prayer - your will, not mine be done

4. Sad part – as far as we know – Jonah never does

- a. Maybe did, maybe just not recorded
- b. But this book ends – with Jonah & God separated

Conclusion

What I want you to see – how God deals w/pouting Jonah

- You can be glad, God is not like me
 - When I see defiance – funny
 - But it steals me – I can go to far – and become equally defiant
- But that is not God – lovingly reaching out
 - Notice His words to Jonah
 - See in Prodigal older son

Wise is the one who will today – cross out the I

- Wise is one who today says – Yours, not mine
- Don't be on the list of those who don't get it
- Sadly – easy to look at Jonah and see him as such a fool...and not see our own

True for Christians....true for non Christians

- It is the “I” that is a problem
- Jesus applies the truth in Luk 9 to you