

"How Then, Will We Live?" Part 6 "A Whale of a Fish Story!"

Previously on HTWWL... Seeing what it means to unlock our kingdom potential for the times we are living in! ***Opening our arms to the people in our changing demographics...*** As we set up defenses against the spiritual shifts and compromises! ***Revvng up our hearts to face the core changes ahead for our nation...*** Embracing the mind of Christ, wisdom from above, the leading of the H.S.! Demonstrating the soundness that Jesus gives us! ***Standing in faith and speaking out hope for our sorrow-filled, terrorized times...*** People need anchored people! ***Anchored by assessing ourselves by God's will, His word and His Son!*** Only valid (vs. vain) comparisons! ***Rightly humbled by a powerful testimony, the way opened for focused activity! "I have no hands but yours!"***

And then we took a look at a vital aspect of living in these times... An intentional focus on our kids! "What good will it do to minister to the whole world and lose our own children/grandkids?" The panel started many conversations...

The questions were many and deep... ***Confirming the crisis among the young and their families!***

We are facing some unusual times and we must be able to demonstrate the Christ life and explain the hope that is within us! The days may be crazy, but it's a prime time for the church; us, individually and corporately, to shine!

We studied the rightly humbled life based on the compensation Jesus pays for every sad, short, omitted thing we ever do!

Case studies of Paul, Peter, Cleopas; humbled by Jesus compensation for self-assurance, denial, confusion!

This right type of humility will cause us to bow down in love and obey the Lord for our lifetimes!

Case Study, "Jonah" "Jonah, get up and go to Nineveh and cry out against it for their wickedness has come up before Me." But Jonah got up and ran to Joppa, booking passage on a ship headed for Tarshish, fleeing from the presence of the Lord... Then the Lord sent out a great wind (ruah) and it was like a tempest that threatened to break up the ship! The captain and crew cried out to their gods as they threw the cargo overboard to lighten the load to save the ship and their lives. The captain found Jonah asleep and waking him said, "what are you doing? Call on your God to save us!" All that were on the boat said, "let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this trouble," and the lot fell to Jonah! "Who are you and what have you done?" "I am a servant of God and I am fleeing His presence!" And the men were exceedingly afraid! "What should we do to appease Him?" Jonah said, 'Cast me overboard!' The sailors just couldn't do it so they tried harder to make it to land but they couldn't beat the storm. Finally they said, "We beg You O' God don't let us perish for what we are about to do..." And they took Jonah, threw him overboard and the sea went calm. Then they were exceedingly afraid. They offered a sacrifice and made promises as a fish swallowed Jonah! J1

Jonah's Case... See the effects of disobedience on believers! ***This is a prophet of God, thinking, even for a moment, he can get away from God? v3 Disobedience skews our knowledge of God!*** "Where can we go that You are not already there?" ***Ps 139.8 A prophet trying to void his calling! R11.29 A man willing to presume if he didn't do it God would get someone else! 1K19.16 He shows us how callous and comfortable we can get in sin!*** Sound asleep in the lower deck! ***v5 How callous we can be toward sinners!*** Cared nothing for Ninevites or sailors! This is a guy who would rather be dead than give God his obedience! **v12**

See the every day effects we have on people when we are living improperly! Look how he affects the people trying to help him! v4-16 Now suffering loss in many ways... Financial, physical pain, mental anguish! **Look at the people he doesn't want to help...** People whose wickedness has come up before the Lord/judgment falling on! Let'em burn! Mean, violent, enemies! All because an *impossible task* of disobeying the Lord's will!

See the power of the Holy Spirit doing His job! God sent out His Great "Ruah" into Jonah's sea-escape! **v4** The "*Rushing Mighty Wind*" can either be a blessing or a curse! The Holy Spirit quickens and equips... **AND** "*Reproves* the world(liness) of sin, of righteousness and judgment! He *guides* into all truth. He *speaks* of... *glorifies*... and *shows* us... Jesus!" **J16.8-14 Phil 2.8** "He helps our infirmities... and works *all things* together for our good!" **R8.26-28**

Jonah prays from the belly of the fish... "When my soul fainted in me I remembered the Lord and I prayed!" **v7**

"I concluded that they who observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy!" **v8** "I will sacrifice with the voice of thanksgiving and pay my vows!" **v9** Of course, God is near... "He spoke and the fish spit Jonah out!" **v10** "The same assignment was given!" **3.1,2** "Jonah complied... with a rotten attitude!" **v3- 4.1-11**

Jonah has a whale of a fish-story... but we can't be distracted from the truth... The real story is a man's self-ruled disobedience and conceited denial of God's claim to his life! Jonah was called, *from before his birth*, to go and preach repentance to sinners... The same calling we have as New Testament believers, wherever we are! **Mt 28:18-20 Mk 16:15-18 Eph 2.10** The real story is a humbled man's obedience to yield to God's calling! And the profound effect it had on a nation of unsaved people... 60,000 people who couldn't discern right from wrong... And "they believed God... fasted and mourned in repentance..." The real story is how wrong a person's life can go when they are not powered by the humility that comes from Christ's love... How easy it is to be proud, elitist, judgmental, angry, and spoiled... **And... how we can minister to multitudes without ever having The Minister's heart!**

With the speedy, willing, lifetime obedience of Jesus, not Jonah!