

## **“How Then, Will We Live?” Part 7 “Without Prejudice!”**

**Previously on HTWWL...** Seeing what it means to unlock our kingdom potential for our times! Open arms for the people in our changing demographics... armored up against spiritual shifts and compromises! Revving up our hearts to face the core changes ahead of our nation... while demonstrating our soundness in Jesus! Standing in faith, speaking out hope for our sorrow-filled times... anchored to God! Rightly humbled by assessing ourselves by God’s will, His word and His Son... for lifetime motivation and service activation! “Unlocking” at home with our own kids!

**Then we came to Jonah’s Case... Saw that a man/woman of God... *Can be so self-ruled (height of conceit) and disobedient that we can deny God’s claim to our lives!* “I’m called to speak for you, stand for you, but I’m not going to do it!” *Can forget who God is, reshaping Him into an image of our own making!* “I can go where He can’t find me or get a hold of me!” *Can be so deceived that we think we can get away from our calling!* “Someone else will do it!” *Can become so callous that we don’t care about perishing people!* People close by, hurt, afraid, perishing! 60,000 people whose judgment was about to fall... “Not my problem!” *Can minister to multitudes effectively and still maintain a bad attitude!* 60,000 salvations should have had an effervescing effect! *Can minister as a task and never obtain a minister’s heart!* Only agenda: to seek and save/lost!**

**Life can go very wrong for a person who isn’t prepared for a lifetime of willing obedience to minister to their world!**

**The ministry will get done, people will hear, but the book ends with the failure of one man in contrast to the faithfulness of God!**

**The story of our lives should end with our faithfulness toward God and our ministry to the people He put in our pathway!**

**The core of Jonah’s failure was disobedience... but the trigger of this episode was simple prejudice!**

**Caveat!** This is not my regular “No black, no white, just shades of brown” message! This is not “we are all brothers and sisters springing from the same DNA since every person in the modern world came from Noah and his sons!” This is not the we are what we are most message: 1<sup>st</sup> Christians, eternally... 2<sup>nd</sup> Americans, til-death-do-us-part. 3<sup>rd</sup> Then, descendants of some Noah-an-ethnicity!

**The case here was that Jonah didn’t like the people because they were mean and cruel... and he thought they deserved judgment!**

**HTWWL? Like Jesus, not Jonah, without prejudice!**

**The Case...** “There is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than him.” And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, being baptized by John. *But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.* And the Lord said, “To what will I liken the men of this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplace calling to one another, saying: ‘We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not weep.’ For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunk, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ But wisdom is justified by all her children.” **Lk 7.28-35**

**Case points... “the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him (John).” v30** People who embraced John’s “reform” got Jesus... ‘even the

publicans!” **v29** From the moment the religious resisted the reform and embraced disobedience... They began losing their focus and their knowledge of God! *Willful disobedience always blinds us! What were they like? Stubborn, non-participating, children!* **v31,32**

**“You say, I am a glutton and drunk, a friend of publicans and sinners...”** **WON:** Jesus doesn’t acknowledge the first phrase, the slam... **1P2.23** Reviled not! And doesn’t deny the latter... But He didn’t say “I am the friend of the public, masses, commoners and sinners...” **He didn’t wall off segments of society! He was friend and Savior to them all!** We’re the ones who “who compare ourselves to ourselves!” **2C10.12** Whose earthly wisdom declares who’s children we are! **Lk 7.35 Jam 3.14-17**

**The Case...** Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went. And behold, a woman in the city *who was a sinner*, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke within himself, saying, *“This Man, if He was a prophet, would know who and what kind of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.”* And Jesus answered and said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” So he said, “Teacher, say it.” “There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred and the other fifty. And when they could not repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, which of them will love him more?” Simon answered and said, “I suppose the one whom he forgave more.” And He said to him, *“You have rightly judged.”* Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, *“Do you see this woman?”* I entered your house and *you* didn’t give me water to wash My feet, but *she* has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. *You* gave Me no kiss on the cheek, but *this woman* has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. *You* did not anoint My head with oil, but *this woman* has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore I say to you, *her sins, which are many*, are forgiven, for *she* loved much. But to whom (you) little is forgiven, *the same* loves little.” Then He said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, *“Who is this who even forgives sins?”* Then He said to the woman, *“Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”* **Lk 7.36-50**

**Case points... Disobedience always causes spiritual blindness and the doubts of God begin!**

**Simon almost immediately began downgrading Jesus stature/nature!** From “Is this the Son of God, Messiah?”

To “If this (mere) man was a prophet, he would have known...” “Home and Garden” sin! **Simon**

**was blinded to the fact that this “Man” (God) was hearing and answering his inner voice!**

“Who, but the Son of God?” **Simon had blindly judged the wrong thing!** Jesus, the woman & not his own heart! **Simon was blind to his sins...** Judgmental of the world, lack of compassion for broken, neglect, little love for God, “LITTLE SINS(?)!” Prejudice against people who were not like him, not part of his group, not up to his standards!

**Jesus loves and desires the salvation of the whole world!** “He is longsuffering to us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” **2Pet3.9** Jesus knew the woman’s sins – loved her! Jesus knew Simon’s sins – loved him! Jesus loved the world – gave Himself! **Jesus never walled off segments of society...** but worked to save them all! And we should live just like that!

**Not like Jonah. Not like Simon. Like Jesus. Without prejudice!**