



Fugitive - Part 2 Sermon Discussion Notes

Opening Thought

Many people struggle to swallow (pun intended) the story of Jonah. Was he merely a made up person that appears in a parable or was he an authentic and real person? Jonah was an historical person who lived during the time of Jeroboam II around the years of 793-753 B.C (see 2 Kings 14:25)

2 Kings 14:23-25 (NIV)

23 In the fifteenth year of Amaziah son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel became king in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years. 24 He did evil in the eyes of the LORD and did not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit. 25 He was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah, in accordance with the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, spoken through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hopher.

Jesus also believed in the veracity of the story of Jonah and referred to it as an example of his own resurrection (see Matthew 12:39-41).

Scriptures

Jonah 1:1-2:1

1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: 2 "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." 3 But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD. 4 Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. 5 All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. 6 The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us, and we will not perish." 7 Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making

all this trouble for us? What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?" 9 He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land." 10 This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.) 11 The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?" 12 "Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you." 13 Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. 14 Then they cried to the LORD, "O LORD, please do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, O LORD, have done as you pleased." 15 Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. 16 At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him. 17 But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.

Discussion Questions

1. What is one of the reasons Jonah may not have wanted to go preach in Nineveh? Look at the verse below and discuss what nation God loves above all other nations?

Revelation 7:9-10 (NIV)

9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

2. What is the nature of God's communication with Jonah in verse 2 of chapter 1 in the book of Jonah?
 - a. An option for Jonah to consider
 - b. A suggestion from God.
 - c. An order and a command
 - d. A potential opportunity for Jonah to look into.

3. Does God have a right to speak to us in an authoritarian way? Consider these passages and the tone and nature of God's communication with man:

Acts 8:26-27 (NIV)

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road — the desert road — that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." 27 So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,

Acts 9:5-6 (NIV)

5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.
6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

4. What terminology did Paul use in the following passages to describe his relationship with Jesus? What terminology would you use to describe your relationship with Jesus right now?

Romans 1:1 (NIV)

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—

Galatians 1:10 (NIV)

10 Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

2 Timothy 2:23-24 (NIV)

24 And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

Titus 1:1-2 (NIV)

1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness—

James 1:1 (NIV)

1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

2 Peter 1:1 (NIV)

1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through their righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

Jude 1 (NIV)

1 Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ:

Revelation 1:1 (NIV)

1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

5. The word for servant in each of the verses above is the Greek word *doulos* (*douloos*). What is the implication of the definition of this word listed below?

doulos (*doo'-los*); from a slave (literal or figurative, involuntary or voluntary; frequently, therefore in a qualified sense of subjection or subserviency): *KJV* - bond (-man), servant. (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary)

6. Why is it so difficult for us to allow the Lord to have the final authority in our lives?

Concluding Thought

Often our life and relationship with the Lord is a conflict of two different plans and agendas; our plan and agenda versus God's plan and agenda for us. God's plan is infinitely more exciting than our ultimate plan in life. The goal of the Christian life is not to try to get God to fit into our plans but for us to fit into his dynamic master plan.

You were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

1 Corinthians 6:20 NIV