

IV. The Sermon He Preaches from His Pulpit 2 of 4

A professor said to a group of young Preachers: "Remember that you need to give to the lost person God's word, not yours. He has promised to bless his word, not yours, and it is his word, not yours, that will not return void".

God said to Jonah "Preach unto them the preaching that I bid thee" - V. 2 God had ordered him to first go now he orders the message.

1. Preach Divine Judgment against the city. God did not tell Jonah to alter this message. Their wickedness has come up before me and I am ready to send my wrath. He is not to change this message the word of God is unalterable, it will not change either for preacher or teacher or hearer.

Explanation for your sermon is God - I will put my truth in thy mouth - May accuse you of "taking the skin off and kicking rubbing in the salt - but be it known these rebukes are not from man but God.

He amazed the pagan city with the fearful judgments of God. Did you know the judgments of God constitute one of the largest portions of Scripture? perhaps 1/3 of the whole Bible taken up with stores of God's judgments upon men and nations.

Judgment from God is coming upon all men--

- (1) Warning of Ecc. 12:13-14 12
- (2) Vision of Daniel 7:9-10
- (3) Paul - Rom: 2:5, 3:20
- (4) Peter 2P. 3:7-10
- (5) Jude 5-15
- (6) John Rev. 20:11-15 13

2. Preach Repentance to the people if they would escape this judgment.

Some think they can escape God's judgment --

- (1) Isaiah 2:10-2;
- (2) Amos 5:16-20
- (3) John the Baptist - Matt 3:7-10 14
- (4) Jesus Luke 13:24 - 28

Intro: From his strange prayer closet - the fishes belly - we must follow him to his pulpit.

I. A second call V. 1

We come suddenly and unexpectedly here upon one of the most marvelous things that happened to this preacher - A second chance, for a sinning, erring servant.

This magnifies the far reaching forbearance and marvelous mercy of God. Who among us has not and failed? Being human we can not escape making blunders!

Can we have a greater need, therefore, than an opportunity to set right the mistakes we have made and strive to do better?

Until our day, army of the Lord's most faithful and effective servants must shudder in solemn contemplation of what and where they would have been except for a second time - God calls and calls again - His purpose persists, despite sightless eyes and stubborn wills, until finally surrender is secured.

The great test of character comes when we have failed and God calls and we rise to do what he would have us do.

God insisted that he go to Nineveh, not to some other place. This represents the char divine plan and purpose for each life. God has a particular servant for a particular place of service and responsibility. The servant, not some other is to occupy that post of duty -- Dunbar wrote:

Nobody else can do the work  
That God marked out for you.

The preacher had gotten good from his strange experience and is now ready to consider God's will. God comes and asks him, "Jonah, wilt thou go to Nineveh now?"

He had come out of his affliction and he is listening to the voice of God, telling him to return to his task which he has neglected. - Now, go and sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee - John 5:14.

The word of the Lord came unto him again -- showing that when God forgives he forgets - gives us a new spirit.

## II. The Palace of this Pulpit

V.2

Neniveh - great city

First - Great in size. From geographical standpoint three days journey, described the overland travel of Jonah. The city included a large urban area. The earliest biblical notice concerned with Neniveh is Gen. 10:11 - 12. There were many suburban towns and villages. Some believe the city may have had a population in excess of half a million people -- a city equivalent to that of New Orleans, or in excess of the city of Norfolk. Three days journey would be about 60 miles -- an average of 20 miles per day, as he moved from one point to another in the city preaching to groups, individuals, street crossings, shops, residences, etc.

Second - Great in wickedness - many feel that this description referred to the moral corruption of the citizens - the spiritual state in the divine light. "Their wickedness is come up before me" 1:2 moral and social sin, rather than idolatry"

1:2

Third - Great plan for saving this great city. Here is revealed God's universal concern for mankind. Also, God's plan for world evangelization.

- (1) Some one must catch the vision of the compassionate God who would have all men come to repentance. 1:1
- (2) There must be understanding of the desperate needs of the people. 1:2

(3) God's chosen messenger must deliver God's word - 1:1

(4) The people must hear and heed the message God sends -- 3:5

## III. He Follows! God to His Pulpit

3

Jonah knows why he is following God - He is a rededicated, God directed, greatly needed, God empowered preacher. He dares to follow God!

Before he had been disobedient - Now he made no objections with out murmuring he ascends his pulpit. He has changed his mind. He has returned to his work that he had left undone. Jonah Arose - He did not sit still -- it was a great way off -- it was a place where he had never been before -- yet he took his journey, according to the word of the Lord, God's servants must go where he sends them, come when he calls them go where he sends them, and do what he bids them.

This is a rare statement -- Arose and followed the Lord's orders. Few people ever dare to fully follow God's word in their lives.

Two Reasons: First, Few people (seek to know) or study to know, what is God's word and will for them. Not only ignorant of the word of God, but choose to remain so. Second, people have some great weakness of the flesh which prevents their doing what they know to be God's will.

Most of us like Jonah have to be chastised of God and whipped into line before we are willing to wholly follow the word of God.

All rebellion was gone! God's will was Jonah's will -- God's work was Jonah's work. Every step he took, Every message he spoke, every prayer he uttered -- God was there to help and to bless. Jonah was not the same man that was on the ship.

30. May - May 26, 1967 P.M.  
30. May - May 19, 62 A.M.  
Playday 19, 62 A.M.

God had exercised great forbearance with these sinful men.

God had chastised and disciplined his messenger  
Forgiveness comes from his compassionate heart.

Salvation by faith.

God withheld judgment --

Daniel 3:11 "As I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live -- --"

Luke 11:32 Able to stand in judgment

Psa. 32:1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered" -- -- --

2 Cor. 5:10-11

The way of repentance unto Divine Mercy is now open to all people

- Alex. - subdued Nations - Set fire to City & died in sin
- Hannibal - filled 3 bushels, gold rings, from slaughtered Kinglets died at last by poison
- Caesar - conquered 800 cities - dyed his garments with blood of one million of his foes, was stabbed by his best friend
- Napoleon - a scourge to Europe died in exile.

"The wicked shall be cut off"

A Hungarian King - asked his Bro - "I shall have a great service & know that how to die & appear before God in the judgment" - His Bro - laughed - a custom for executioners to sound a trumpet before the door of the man to be executed - at midnight the King had trumpet sounded at Bro's door. He arose in haste to come to King & inquired if executed - you have not offended me, but if the sight of my executioner be so dreadful, then shall I not be have greatly offended, fear to stand for judgment before Christ?

He must warn them and show them the way out.

3. Preach that the time is limited

A real alarm - the day had been set - uprighteous people had a certain amount of time in which to repent. Forty Days - yet the city shall be spared forty days in face of its wickedness.

They had time to repent, but God will wait no longer. 40 days is a long time for a righteous God to delay or defer his judgment - yet it seems a little time for the unrighteous people to repent and reform in only God could fix the time limit -

We should awaken and get ready for death as our time is about to run out - it is more probable that we die within 40 days than that we shall live 40 days more.

God's judgments are dated:

1. Curse pronounced upon Adam - Gen 3:17 - 19
2. Curse placed upon Cain - Gen 4:9-15
3. Destruction of world by Flood - Gen 7:1-6
4. Destruction of first born in Egypt. Ex. 12:11-14  
*Door Post*
5. Judgment upon Israel in wilderness - Num. 14:26
6. Judgment upon house of Eli - I Sam. 2:27  
*cut off*
7. Judgment upon army - 2 Kings 19:20
8. Judgment upon Abab and Jezebel - I Kings 21:7-19  
*23*  
*Dogs shall eat her by wall*  
*Walls of air cut them down across city*

Jonah no cotton string for back home - men hold him down - no erroneous doctrine - 40 days - Stop by Band hall - round stop Post Room - School - public Tavern - - Sweet sermon No!

V. The Effectiveness of His Invitation [5-9]

His sermon and invitation are unparalleled in history - the truth of God had been preached by the lips of an unworthy man. Moral transformation swept over Nineveh and amazing response of a pagan city to an unknown preacher's sermon on impending Judgment.

"So faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God". The people understood that God was speaking to them.

1. Note how they responded

(1) It was immediate - it began with the first day of his preaching. 3:4-5

(2) It was city wide - all classes of people - 3:5

(3) It was wholehearted

A. They believed God [V. 5]

B. They humbled themselves [5-7]

No empty formality with mere external religious trappings - signs of humiliation and grief - Evil must be confessed and renounced.

King got afraid & took off colored clothes

C. They prayed for mercy [8]

D. They turned from their evil [8]

2. Note why they responded this way [9]

(1) Became conscious of their wickedness - Felt a deep condemnation for sin - troubled by their sin - weeping over their sin.

(2) Became aware of God's Plan to deal with them in judgment. Every normal man should realize this. God will deal with sin, sooner or later. 40 days left.

(3) Became convicted that the preachers Sermon was the truth of God. No one could miss its meaning, no one could escape it. He never changed his message, He repeated and kept repeating until understood by all.

3. Note How God Responded to Their Repentance [10]

God's amazing mercy and grace worked and forgiveness was wrought. God does not forgive until men confess and forsake their sins in genuine repentance.