



Pt. 4. 2023

“In trouble by Choice” - Jonah 1-2

Suffering is a part of life.

We are not entitled to perfect lives. Adversity does not discriminate. It’s important to change the knee-jerk reaction mindset of “why me?” into one that says, “why not me?” Terrible things happen to so many of us, “*now’s the time to sink or swim.*”

Let’s look at some observations from Jonah 1-2 about how to get in trouble by choice:

I. There was a clear C from God. V.1

Jonah 1

1 The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: ² “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are.”

Let me give you a couple of examples:

1. The bible says:

Galatians 6:1

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

Matthew 18:15

“If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.

2. The bible says:

2 Cor. 6:14-18

¹⁴ Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

II. A Bad D, “Jonah Ignored God’s Command”

Jonah 1

³ But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the Lord by sailing to Tarshish.



III. A bad decision will usually bring a S in your life

⁴ But the Lord hurled a powerful wind over the sea, causing a violent storm that threatened to break the ship apart.

IV. My storm will A others.

⁵ Fearing for their lives, the desperate sailors shouted to their gods for help and threw the cargo overboard to lighten the ship. But all this time Jonah was sound asleep down in the hold. ⁶ So the captain went down after him. “How can you sleep at a time like this?” he shouted. “Get up and pray to your god! Maybe he will pay attention to us and spare our lives.”

- **your bad decisions will give a bad testimony to others.**

⁷ Then the crew cast lots to see which of them had offended the gods and caused the terrible storm. When they did this, the lots identified Jonah as the culprit. ⁸ "Why has this awful storm come down on us?" they demanded. "Who are you? What is your line of work? What country are you from? What is your nationality?" ⁹ Jonah answered, "I am a Hebrew, and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land." ¹⁰ The sailors were terrified when they heard this, for he had already told them he was running away from the Lord. "Oh, why did you do it?" they groaned.

V. If there is not R _____ your storm will only get worse.

¹¹ And since the storm was getting worse all the time, they asked him, "What should we do to you to stop this storm?"

Pride can play a big role in your storm if there is not repentance....

¹² "Throw me into the sea," Jonah said, "and it will become calm again. I know that this terrible storm is all my fault."

- **The sailors tried**

¹³ Instead, the sailors rowed even harder to get the ship to the land. But the stormy sea was too violent for them, and they couldn't make it.

- **Even nonbelievers understood there was a purpose from God....**

¹⁴ Then they cried out to the Lord, Jonah's God. "O Lord," they pleaded, "don't make us die for this man's sin. And don't hold us responsible for his death. O Lord, you have sent this storm upon him for your own good reasons."

Pride is an issue when we have made a mistake...

¹⁵ Then the sailors picked Jonah up and threw him into the raging sea, and the storm stopped at once! ¹⁶ The sailors were awestruck by the Lord's great power, and they offered him a sacrifice and vowed to serve him.

It will get even worse without repentance.

¹⁷ Now the Lord had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights.

VI. The storm will affect you S _____, P _____, M _____ and E _____.

The storm will hit every part of your being

³ You threw me into the ocean depths, and I sank down to the heart of the sea.

The mighty waters engulfed me; I was buried beneath your wild and stormy waves.

⁵ "I sank beneath the waves, and the waters closed over me. Seaweed wrapped itself around my head.

^{6a} I sank down to the very roots of the mountains. I was imprisoned in the earth, whose gates lock shut forever

Jonah's Prayer

VII. The way out of the storm you created: "Genuine R _____"

² Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from inside the fish. ² He said, "I cried out to the Lord in my great trouble, and he answered me. I called to you from the land of the dead, and Lord, you heard me!

^{6b} But you, O Lord my God, snatched me from the jaws of death!

⁷ As my life was slipping away, I remembered the Lord.

And my earnest prayer went out to you in your holy Temple.

- The storm was necessary to change his life and attitude toward God....

⁸ Those who worship false gods turn their backs on all God's mercies. ⁹ But I will offer sacrifices to you with songs of praise, and I will fulfill all my vows. For my salvation comes from the Lord alone."

What is adversity?

Adversity is a transformational process that God allows in your life!!!

¹⁰ Then the Lord ordered the fish to spit Jonah out onto the beach.