



UNQUALIFIED PART 2

Jonah

Review of Unqualified Series...

Example) Story of Doing studio work for a young producer for a Christmas commercial for Founders inn, I was pregnant with my daughter Grace. He fired me and said, **“No offense, but if I knew they wanted a dime a dozen soprano, that’s what I would have looked for in the first place.”**

I struggled with his words for years and actually turned down studio jobs thinking I just wasn’t “qualified” to be a studio singer.

Like me, each of you in here has at some time in your life struggled with what someone said about you. Usually someone you respected, or loved, or were close to. And most often, these words have some truth to them.

You see each of us has within us qualities that threaten to derail our walk with God. Qualities that, if not corrected and brought under the disciplinary hand of God, will throw us off course and cause us to doubt our usefulness for the Kingdom.

But thank God He doesn’t call the **qualified!** Rather, He **qualifies** the called, if we’ll let Him.



*** **HUH...** ***

*** **Hmm...**

“The purpose of problems is to push you toward **obedience** to God's laws, which are exact and cannot be changed. We have the free will to obey them or disobey them. **Obedience** will bring harmony; disobedience will bring you more problems.” Peace Pilgrim



Today’s Teaching is Unqualified Part 2- Jonah



Is the Book of Jonah a Big Fish Tale?

The book of Jonah, more than any other in Scripture, has been laughed at and called ridiculous; no book has been so battered by a sea of criticism –pun intended!

Some of the many theories as to the Book's origin:

1. *Jonah had a dream while sleeping on the ship during a storm. The book of Jonah is the account of the dream.*
2. *The book is to closely related to the Phoenician myth of Hercules and the sea monster to be true..*
3. *After the storm and a shipwreck, Jonah was picked up by a boat displaying the figurehead of a fish.*
4. *During the storm, Jonah took refuge in a dead fish which was floating around.*

All of these theories can't help but raise some questions, though...

- Is it a history, an allegory, a parable, or complete fiction?
- Was Jonah even real?
- Did he really spend three days in the belly of a whale?
- Was God's judgment in Nineveh really averted? meaning can only be found by

I hope to answer some of these questions as we study this book today because if the book is a narrative of actual fact, it brings to us one of the most striking revelations of God and priceless messages of His comfort ever given. But if it's just fiction, it's no more important to us than an antique Superman comic book.

We won't spend a great deal of time on whether the book of Jonah is a historical narrative, except to list three important evidences:

- **First, there is nothing in the book of Jonah to suggest it is anything other than a historical account.**
- **Second, evidence from the Old Testament makes it clear Jonah existed.** No one denies that David, Josiah, and Hezekiah were real kings, and it is among the records of these kings that we find the mention of “**Jonah the son of Amittai.**”
- **Thirdly, and most importantly, Jesus implied the book of Jonah contains actual events, by the way he referred to them in**

*****Matt. 12:39-41**

"He answered, 'A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here.'"

If Jesus said Jonah was a real person, and that Jonah was three days in the belly of a huge fish, and if He said the people of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah, then that's all the proof I need. !!!

**-And last, but not least, one of the stars of the Jonah story...the Whale?
What was that thing really?**

¹⁷Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

The Greek word "**Dawg**" translated, "**whale**" in [Matthew 12:40](#) (KJV) is also called "a great fish" ([Jonah 1:17](#), NIV), "great creature" ([Gen. 1:21](#); [Ps. 148:7](#), NIV), "monster"

The [Book of Jonah](#) refers simply to a "great fish" ([Jonah 1:17](#)).

-The "great" fish that the verse 17 speaks of may not have been a whale at all, but a great white shark that was common in the Mediterranean. According to some bible scholars, the size and habits of the "Great" White shark correspond to Jonah's story.

Therefore, it looked a little more like this...



But whether the big fish was an octopus, a sea monster, a whale, or a giant clam doesn't really matter.

What matters is... that the fish was not intended to hurt Jonah, but to save him from drowning. God used this great fish to transport him safely to the next place. Jonah, however, saw the trial of being in the fish's belly as a death sentence.

Ex) "it wasn't the dog story"- God caused the storm, God prepared the fish, God had the fish spit him out

*This is often how we see our trials.

-(Reference Picture)It would've been great if Jonah was as afraid of the big fish as you see in the picture of Nemo and Dori. But he wasn't. No, he kind of liked it in there. Jonah had a different plan than God. Sheol, in some translations, is used to describe the belly of the whale. It means "death", "pit", "grave", or "Hell."

-And as we see after the last verse of Chapter 1 (vs. 17) that states he was in the belly of the great fish for three days and nights, the first verse of Chapter 2 which is the very next verse says, "Then, he prayed to God to deliver him."

-Basically he pouted for three days and was telling God that he would rather be in Hell than obey Him.

Why? *Because Jonah had P.M.S.**

He was *****P**rideful, *****M**oody, and *****S**elf Centered

*****First let's Focus on his Pride**

Jonah 1:1-16

¹Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

²"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

Commentary: (*Nineveh was not a good city, but a big city (great). It is currently 150 miles Northwest of Bagdadh, Iraq. The Ancient city in Assyria was 350 square miles and contained four cities within the complex of Nineveh proper. Walls 100 feet high and so wide three chariots could ride along them side by side. Fortified with 1,500 200-foot high towers.*)

³But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the

fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

-Commentary: *First instance of Pride, by disobeying, he thought he knew better than God what was right to do and took it into his own hands.*

⁴But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.

***⁵Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that *was* in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.

⁶So the captain came to him, and said to him, “What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish.”

⁷And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble *has come* upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.

⁸Then they said to him, “Please tell us! For whose cause *is* this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?”

***⁹So he said to them, (**instance of pride here**) “*I am* a Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, (**third instance of pride-delusion about one’s spirituality. This comment was a major overstatement**) the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry *land*.”

¹⁰Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, “Why have you done this?” For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

¹¹Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?”—for the sea was growing more tempestuous.

¹²And he said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest *is* because of me.”

-Commentary: *More Pride, sounds as if he secretly enjoyed it. This was False humility and sacrifice. Jonah knew he was making God angry all along, thus, the willful disobedience!*

***¹³Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them.

¹⁴Therefore they cried out to the LORD (**sad that this was not Jonah**) and said, “We pray, O LORD, please do not let us perish for this man’s life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O LORD, have done as it pleased You.”

¹⁵So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.

¹⁶Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the LORD and took vows.

The Book of Jonah in a Clamshell::

1. God ordered Jonah to preach at the city of [Nineveh](#). Jonah did not want to
2. Sails to Tarshish, storm comes up, he’s thrown overboard.
3. God sends a great fish to save him. He spends three days pouting over it.
4. He repents and God has the fish spit him out on the shores of Nineveh.
5. He delivers the word to the ninevites but omits the part where God will be merciful and spare them if they repent part. “He says, Yet 40 days, Nineveh will be overthrown.”
6. The King of Nineveh tells all people to fast and pray so God spares them.
7. Jonah is again mad about it pretty much saying, “man, I knew this would happen, that’s why I didn’t want to do it.” and leaves the city to watch what happens and continues to sulk and asks to die.
8. God asks him, “Do you have any reason to be angry?”
9. God makes a gourd vine/bush grow over his head so that he can sulk in comfort then has a worm destroy it in the morning and it withers.
10. Jonah asks to die again because he’s getting heat stroke and God tells him, you care more about yourself and this gourd than you do about the people of Nineveh.

Before we judge Jonah’s Pride and disobedience. Let’s look at a bit of justification for his actions...

Jonah was a prophet of Israel and a real patriot for the Hebrew people and the Ninevites were nasty people. Obviously, God was not pleased with the Ninevites either. They worshipped sea Gods, Land Gods, wind Gods, and were constantly in fear of them. They sacrificed people on a continual basis and were particularly cruel to the Hebrews. If the Ninevites conquered a city, they were known for their brutality. They would never leave a captive alive. They would do absolute atrocities to them...ripping out there tongues, skinning them alive and putting the skins on the walls of the city, making pyramids of heads as a warning. They were the Nazi’s of ancient times.

Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse said, "...calling Jonah to go to the Ninevites was like asking a Jew in 1942 to go from New York to Hitler, and tell him that God loved him, and that everything he did would be forgiven if he would but repent. So the Jew got on a train, all right, and went to San Francisco; then got on a ship to Japan! He wanted nothing to do with it."

No Doubt that Jonah was angry about the Call of God and was pretty moody about it...

*****Moody**

When we evaluate someone, we frequently note whether the individual has a good or bad attitude. We joke about grumpy old men and hormonal contentious women. But the truth is that all it takes is one negative person with a really bad attitude to suck all the fun out everything.

Ex) My Cheerleading squad in High School and the girl who always cut everyone down in order to be friends. She had a really bad attitude.

-if over the years we fail to develop a positive, thankful attitude about what God is doing in our lives, we may not be in His Kingdom! And we may very well prevent others from joining in the Kingdom of God!

Although his attitude was bad (negative attitude towards God's saving the Ninevites, doubts God and doesn't believe what God did was right, is disobedient to the call.) God still chose to allow the Holy Spirit's anointing to rest upon him and yokes were broken.

God uses lots of leaders in the Bible with bad attitudes. Moses in Numbers 20 was told to speak to the Rock so that it would bring forth water, but because he was so angry with the people's whining, he took out his frustration on the rock and beat it with his rod.

Water still flowed, but the action cost Moses and Aaron their entrance into the promised land.

*****James 1:19-20 says this...**

¹⁹**This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;**

²⁰**for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.**

How important is our attitude in ministry? We can have the right message, but the wrong attitude. You may talk about Jesus all day long, but if your fruit is rotten, and you curse and bless out of the same mouth, no one will want what you have. You will be a liability to the Kingdom instead of an asset. Jonah forgot the first and most important attribute of God stated for us in John 3:16, “For God so Loved the world...”

In spite of everything that Jonah had done wrong, the anointing was strong on this vessel who was reluctant to be obedient. God used Jonah in spite of himself. The Holy Spirit (the anointing) did not cease His work and wait for Jonah’s attitude to be right. He continued to intervene until God’s will was fulfilled.

Jonah delivered the prophetic mandate, and the anointing broke the yoke of sin over Nineveh. Within a matter of days, the entire city responded to God’s charge of repentance.

-Did Jonah Repent? The Story of Jonah doesn’t ever tell us whether Jonah ever learned about mercy, or that God loves everyone, or that he even repented of his anger and hatred of the Ninevites. All the way from the beginning of the book to the end, he was still quite

*****Self-Centered.**

Three times Jonah was more concerned about his own principles and comfort level than God’s will.

***-He didn't want the Ninevites to be saved because He was playing God and had deemed them not worthy.

***-He asked to die several times instead of having to admit his sin.

***-He felt that Nineveh was not worth the trip (500 miles over mountains)

***-Continually wallowed in self pity and was more upset over losing his shade than the ninevite people.

WE never find out if Jonah ever repented of his P.M.S., but the truth of the matter is, Jonah was still Called of God, and God used him in spite of it.

Conclusion: Knowing that God wants to lose no one, as well as His ability to **Qualify those He calls**, those He calls, it is nice to think that, indeed, Jonah finally learned the lesson of having a right attitude. If he really meditated on the fruit of God's decision to spare Nineveh, he cannot help but to have repented and continued to do the things God gave him to do.

What is the lesson for us today? We, too, can allow our human nature to rule us through a flawed attitude, giving in to rebellion, anger and hastiness of thought and action. But a better course is if we can humble ourselves before God, sincerely asking for a positive and right attitude.

Consider the options...

***Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.