

Making Sense Out Of Jonah Outline

May 11, 2008

Introduction

- Thank you to the Elders
- Happy Mother's Day

Some Things that don't make much sense:

- Sleeping like a baby
- Deaf person in court, a hearing?
- Superman ducks when gun thrown at him
- Cottage Cheese
- Apartments, they're together

Things invented that don't make much sense

- Speed Bumps, only in places where you wouldn't speed anyway
- Car Burglar Alarms, Burglars are the only ones who know how to turn them off
- Public Washroom sinks where you have to hold the handle to wash your hands

Unfortunately many people have a hard time understanding God's Word.

Hosea 4:6,10 "YOU STUMBLE DAY AND NIGHT, AND THE PROPHETS STUMBLE WITH YOU. MY PEOPLE ARE DESTROYED FROM LACK OF KNOWLEDGE. THEY WILL EAT AND NOT HAVE ENOUGH; THEY WILL ENGAGE IN PROSTITUTION BUT NOT INCREASE, BECAUSE THEY HAVE DESERTED THE LORD TO GIVE THEMSELVES TO PROSTITUTION, TO OLD WINE AND NEW, WHICH TAKE AWAY THE UNDERSTANDING OF MY PEOPLE."

- Made more sense to condemn a Man that claimed to be equal to God
- Today's Society: Look out for Number one and Live for today

Peter spoke of this by quoting the prophet Isaiah: **1 Peter 2: 7-8**

This morning I want to take a look at a situation in Jesus' life where he once again was challenged by those who opposed Him, and take a close look at Jesus' reply. His reply holds the answer to the starting place for all belief

Matthew 12: 38

When Pharisees made this request they had already seen:

- Demons Cast Out
- Many people Healed
- A dead girl raised
- And they heard Jesus teach in a way unlike any other before-One with Authority

Christian songwriter David Meece "Some People Never Believe"

Jesus' answer: **Matthew 12:39-41**

Just as Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and nights, so the Son of Man would be in the heart of the earth.

-Do we like the Pharisees see evidence of God, and still remain stubborn in our belief?

No question Jesus is referring to His death, burial and resurrection, but Jesus was also pointing to the way of salvation.

The answer begins at the cross: the Sign of Jonah

The Cross today:

- Fashion Statement
- Picture on the wall
- No change from within

-If we're not convinced of Jesus death, burial and resurrection, nothing else He did will convince us

The Points of The Message

A look at Jonah: Not just about a man swallowed by a fish, but a story of God's compassion and mercy for those who believe its saving message:

Jonah 1:1-2

1. **We see in Jonah, God's Commission.** Jonah was commissioned by God to go to the city of Ninevah. Likewise, Jesus was commissioned by God.

Galatians 4:4-5

Jesus and Jonah were commissioned because of:

2. Man's Disobedience and Sin.

- The angel's message of Joseph
- Jonah sent for the same reason
- Two different approaches to God's Commission

Jonah 1:11-17

3. Only By Death is Man Saved.

- Jonah's "symbolic" death was the means of Ninevah's salvation
- Jesus physical death brought about salvation to the world

Romans 6:23, 9:15-16

People of Ninevah were not spared until they repented.

Jonah 3:6-9

4. The Message of the Cross Leads Those Who received it to an act of Confession and Repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

This is the Sign of Jonah Jesus was speaking of. The starting place of all man's belief. The Ninevite King heard the message of Jonah and believed it and he led the whole city into a spiritual revival. When anyone who hears the Good News of Jesus believes and is led to an act of confession and repentance we experience:

5. God's Compassion and Forgiveness

-Jonah 4, Jonah angry at God's mercy on Ninevah. God's reply the same for us.

-Jonah in disobedience too, read Jonah 2 and hear his prayer of repentance.

-We too must die to our sins to receive God's Compassion and Forgiveness

Romans 6:3-4

Invitation

-For those struggling to make sense of God's Word. It begins with the Sign of Jonah, the cross and resurrection of Jesus

-For those who have already received God's Message, we are commissioned by God to go and preach the Good News, even to people we don't want to.