

JONAH

"A Whale of a Tale or a Tail of a Whale"

Lesson 3 - Lessons on Leaving the Lord JONAH 1:3-10

Introduction:

Have you ever left anything and were not able to get it back? It is a terrible feeling. It leaves an emptiness when we leave something that is dear to us. Jonah left some things when he headed toward Tarshish. We often talk about what it costs to serve God, but Jonah gave us a vivid picture of what it costs to leave God:

1. Left his _____ (1:3)
"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."

Everything in the book obeys God's will except Jonah.

- God sent the waves and they obeyed
- The lots obeyed
- The storm obeyed
- The fish obeyed
- The worm obeyed
- Birds fulfilled the will of God
- Snakes fulfilled the will of God

_____ was made to fellowship with God, and he was the one of creation who didn't fulfill his purpose.

II. Left his _____ (1:4-6)

“Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. 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. 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 so that we will not perish.’”

_____ hardens the heart. When we are on the run from the Lord’s will, it is inevitable that we become _____.

The trouble with Jonah was that he was _____ with his rebellion. As long as our hearts are broken over sin there is _____ for us. But when our sin doesn’t bother us, it is a danger signal.

III. Left his _____ (1:7)

“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.”

When we leave the will of God, we leave the ability to _____ God. The captian prayed, but Jonah did not. Later he did, but not here. Why not?

- Psalm 66:18

When we live with open and unrepented sin in our lives, we cannot _____ with God.

IV. Left his _____ (1:8-10)

“So they asked him, ‘Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?’ He answered, ‘I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.’ This terrified them and they asked, ‘What have you done?’”

A powerless Christian is pitiful to witness. Matthew 5:15, “If the salt loses its saltiness . . . it is no longer good for _____.”

Jonah lost his _____.

Jonah was bombarded with questions:

- **How can you sleep?**
- **Who is responsible?**
- **What do you do?**
- **Where did you come from?**
- **What is your country?**
- **From what people are you?**
- **What have you done?**

Those questions came from a _____ man.

Thank God for the _____. It was a sign that God was not through with him yet. Remember, God sent the storm.

**Myth: The essence of life is to _____
_____ from the Father.**

**Reality: The essence of life is to _____
_____ to the Father.**