

Series: Brother Jonah!

Title: Fulfilling God's Will

Text: Jonah 3

Live our lives backwards.

Now that I am older, I am wiser.

More sure of my Calling.

Calmer is the face of opposition.

Wouldn't it be great to start off life like that, while we have the physical strength to carry it out.

(Ecc 9:4) For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

Everyone has abilities.

Your Greatest Ability is AVAIL Ability.

A. The Commission Renewed: (Vs 1-2)

"second time" - God of the 2nd chance.

B. The Prophet Obeys: (Vs 3-4)

Obedience of the servant brings to pass the Will of God.

C. The City Repents: (Vs 5-9)

One Man can Make a Difference

Even an unwilling servant can be used by God.

The Results are up to God, not up to you.

(Matt 12:41) The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

D. The Lord Repents: (Vs 10)

Deity responds to Humanity's choices.

God responded to the attitude of their heart.

God responded to their repentance.

God responded to their humility.

The God of the Second Chance:

(2 Pet 3:9) It is God's desire to forgive the Lost

The Lost: (Jonah 3:2) Isn't this the essence of the Gospel?

How many times have you heard the Gospel, and not trusted Christ?

Rom 3:23 - *Fallen Short*

Rom 6:23 - *But*

Ps 86:5,15

Ezek 34:36 - *Restoration*

If we will just humble our heart of pride. (Jonah 3:5-9)

Agree with God by confessing our sin.

In sorrow asking Him to Forgive.

He will forgive us and make us His child.

(Matt 12:41) The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

(Rom 10:9-10,13) If you will, God will respond.

The choice is up to you. God will not go against your will.

We have to choose to receive His forgiveness.

The Wayward/Rebellious Christian: a similar promise
God is the God of the 2nd Chance

When a Believer sins, he breaks fellowship with God, as Jonah did.

God then takes steps to restore the fellowship. (Heb 12:5-11)

(2 Cor 5:19) It is God's will to Reconcile with His children

(2 Chron 7:14) ***If my people***, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

“**IF**” Are some of the most powerful words in the bible. Many of the promises of God are “*Conditional*” Promises. *IF/Then* propositions from God.

“**IF**” means the you have a part to play.

(1 Jn 1:7) *If we walk in the light...the blood...cleanses.*”

(1 Jn 1:9) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful...to forgive.*”

(Jn 15:7) *If ye abide in me...you shall ask...and it shall be done.*”

Deity responds to Humanity's choices.

God said He would deal with His people according to their choices.

(Ex 19:5-6) *Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.*

It will require FAITH – (Heb 11:6) *Without Faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that cometh to God must believe that HE IS, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.*

(Heb 11:1) *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Faith is trusting God because we believe Him to be truthful.

Faith is believing God's word is true.

(Heb 11:8) *By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.*

Faith is believing God's love for you is Real and greater than any other love you have ever experienced.

God challenges our faith so that it can grow.

God challenges our faith so we can see Him in a new way.

God challenges our faith so we can learn more about Him.

which are called by my name,

To be called by His name: Called ~ Chosen for them

(Acts 11:26) Christians 1st @ Antioch ~ *Christ-Like*

“The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”

Illus: The name, Christian, used to mean something-

There was a time when it meant something special, pure.

You knew what kind of person you were dealing with.

It meant you knew what kind of character to expect.

It was like the Character of CHRIST.

You could trust people to act like Christ.

It meant you were dealing with a godly person.

*It's Time to take back the word to mean what it was supposed to mean – ie. **Christ-Like***

It's time to Life Lock the word Christian.

(2 Chron 7:14) *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and*

turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Called by His name - means to Identify with Him:

more than *just in name only*.

(1 Peter 2:9-10) *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, **a peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: ¹⁰ Which in time past were not a people, but **are now the people of God**: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

Peculiar: *Belonging to a person and to him only.*

Belonging to a nation, system or person, & not to others.

To be called by His name means to be Identified as His by Embodying His Character:

(Phil 2:2-8) *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: (THIS MIND - take on the character of Christ), Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

(Eventhough He is God, and has every right to do as He pleases, He did not let pride or His desires get in the way of His service to His Heavenly Father),

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

**Paul is encouraging us to take on the Character of Christ
To be a living embodiment of HIM.**

IT is not our life anymore, it is His Life living through us

Camouflage: What is the purpose of camouflage? It is to conceal one self's true identity and /or position.

- To blend in to one's surroundings.

(Rom 12:2) *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

(2 Chron 7:14) If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

shall humble themselves

How Long has it been since you were totally honest with God

How deep does the whale have to go?

God will not force you against your will, but He wants you to decide this for yourself.

The source of Willfulness and its associated attitude of the heart is PRIDE!

(Ps 10:4) The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.;

Many people I witness to have an attitude of willfulness, "I want to do my own thing!" "I don't care what God thinks!" Pharaoh is also a good picture of me, as a Christian, who likes to pick and choose what I want to obey and when I want to obey.

(Prov 13:10) *Only by **PRIDE** cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.*

Many people come to me for council, but when presented with the truth of God's Word, which always necessitates humility, the desire to change dissipates.

In our pride, we don't want to admit we MAY be wrong.
In our pride, we like even less admitting others MAY be right also

Humble means to lower our opinion of ourself.

Lower our pride, & To admit God is God.

Lower our pride, & To Admit God it right.

Lower our pride, & To Admit we are wrong.

Lower our pride, & To Obey.

What is God going to have to let you go through before you and I are willing to voluntarily Humble ourselves?

(2 Chron 7:14) ***If my people**, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

and pray, and seek my face,

Prayer is not *The Overcoming of Reluctance* on the part of God.

(James 4:8) *Draw nigh to God, and He will draw high to you*

There is no need to attempt to Strong Arm Deity (Which is impossible) to do our bidding.

We have a prayer answering God who delights in responding to the prayers of His children.

God is anxious to respond to the cries of those humble enough to recognize their need.

- You can ask God to quicken your heart.

- You can ask God to draw near in mercy.

The only things which lie outside the reach of prayer are the things which lie outside the will of God.

God puts sanctified desires in the hearts of His people so they in turn utter them back to Him in prayer.

(Mark 9:23) *"If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."*

(John 11:40) *Said I not unto thee, that, **IF THOU** wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?*

"I will pour water on him that is thirsty and floods upon the dry ground" (Is 44:3)

(Heb 11:6) *Without Faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that cometh to God must believe that **HE IS**, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.*

We need to stop "*SAYING*" our prayers and to start "*PRAYING*" our prayers.

Effective prayer is heartfelt, fervent, and initiated by the Holy Spirit.

Our prayers must move us before they will ever move God.

(Matt 17:14-21) Howbeit **THIS KIND** goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

(2 Chron 7:14) *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, **and turn from their wicked ways**; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

and turn from their wicked ways; my people,

This is a call to Christians repent

(1 John 1:8) *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

(1 John 1:10) *If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

(1 John 1:9) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Repentance: God is the God of a 2nd Chance-Take it!

Our Flesh is a powerful force in our lives.

(Gal 5:16-17)

We must turn from our sin, and turn UNTO God and surrender ourselves to the Holy Spirit.

(Rom 12:1) The problem is the sacrifice crawls off the altar.
2 Flesh hooks of Duty and Devotion.

Forsake Sin:

Illus: Dropping our watch in a portapoddy.

You wont go in after it.

RESULTS

then will I hear from heaven,

God always responds to our choices.

(Prov 3:1-10) Promises tied to our choices.

(Gal 6:7-9) works for the positive as well as the negative.

and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

We should not blame America's problems on the Lost; the Abortionist, the Drug dealers, the Porn industry, or Hollywood.

They act lost because they are lost.

Illus: You should not beat your dog for acting like a dog.

That's not fair to the dog.

He will never be anything but a dog.

The problem with a America is that God is calling HIS people to repent, not the lost world.

“Forgive THEIR sin and will heal THEIR land.”

God is calling His people to Humble their pride.

IF/Then

The Reason for America's problems resides with the Christian not doing what they are called to do.

The Answer to America's problems are found in the Christian responding to God's call for personal revival.

ONE MAN CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE