

Pastoral Notes

'The Jonah Problem' Jonah 1:1-3.

Our own Rev. Derrick Jones brought the word of God from the prophetic book of **Jonah** a man who **had a problem with God**. Jonah's problem was that **God wanted to show mercy to Jonah's enemies by using him as the vessel to communicate**. **Jonah's problem with the mercy of God, led him to another problem that of disobedience**. Rev. Jones challenged us to **self-assess and see if we, too, have a Jonah problem**.

Jonah is not the only one who has tried running away from God. **Some of us have run from the calling of God** for us **to serve** as agents of his Kingdom. Some have run from the call **to preach, teach, sing, dance**, serve as Deacons. Our running is usually not out of a concern for God's mercy, but rather **out of a concern for our having to make a sacrifice we don't want to make**. **This being the case, we too, have a Jonah problem by demonstrating our disobedience to the will of God**.

Anytime you are willfully disobedient to God's Word, you have a Jonah problem. Anytime you put your desires, plans and will above that of God, you have a Jonah problem. This is because **disobedience creates separation and distance between you and God**. While God is always able to close the

distance, he will only do so when you indicate a desire and willingness to draw near to him. **God will never leave you nor forsake you, but he will sit on the side and WAIT on you**.

Jonah's disobedience led to him being caught up in a terrible storm and eventually thrown overboard. **While God will allow you to encounter storms**, sometimes it is your enemy, the devil who sends storms your way. Rest assured that if you feel like you've been thrown overboard, it was not God. **He will NEVER PUSH you overboard**. Jonah was thrown overboard by men who feared he was the reason for their demise. It was God, however who rescued him. The source of your storms is dependent on your proximity to God. When you are close to God, the storms come from the devil. When you are distant from God, the storms come from God.

Rev. Jones let us know that the **key to dealing with a Jonah problem** is prayer. In prayer ask for **1. Forgiveness 2. Faith 3. Fortitude and most importantly 4. The Fortifier (Jesus)**.

This message is available from our website, or as a CD. Listen to it and share it with others for it is the anointed Word of God.

Stay Blessed,
Pastor Robbie

Nuggets: