

## **Jonah: The Mercy of God and the Actions of Man**

### **Week 3 – God Corrects His Man**

#### **Jonah 1:4-6**

God corrects His people to bring them back into right standing with Him. His people respond.

Action: We will rejoice that God mercifully corrects His people instead of destroying us.

#### **Series Graphic (SLIDE 1)**

#### **Reminder: Do You Do Well to be Angry? (SLIDE 2)**

This question from God to Jonah frames the series for us. It is a reminder of God's mercy toward us and His work to transform us into His people.

#### **Opening Idea**

A good husband and father loves his children in a way that is confusing for people who don't understand what good fathers do. He will live before his children so they see what a father does with his wife, with his work, with his ministry, with his rest, and with his children. At times he may inspire them and be a model they emulate. At other times, he will correct them to help them become adults who know how to live with their parents, their spouse, their family, their children, how to work, how to serve in ministry/church, and serving God. This life that God has directed will be difficult at times because it can be painful. Correction is difficult. At other times it is sweet because of the joy and kindness that exists in the relationship. In time, the life of a good Godly father is part of God work to reveal our need for the true Father and help us understand what God does to help us abide with Him, participate in His good work, find joy and significance in life, and bring God joy and glory. Even if our earthly fathers did not parent well, we become keenly aware of our need for a Good Father.

Jonah has rejected and fled from God's presence refusing to serve Him. God takes action to correct and restore Jonah rather than destroy Him. He is God's man yet, due to his sin, Jonah was acting like a person who didn't know God. Let's continue our study of Jonah and see God's actions toward Jonah to help Jonah participate in God's saving work.

#### **Read**

#### **Jonah 1:4-6 ESV**

**(SLIDE 3)** **4** But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. **5** Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep.

**(SLIDE 4)** **6** So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish."

#### **Series Graphic (SLIDE 5)**

## **Notes on Jonah 1:4-6**

### **God Takes Action (v. 4)**

Jonah has fled from God and is in the boat going to Tarshish. Jonah has made a big move to reject and flee from God's presence. Jonah is at risk of now facing God's wrath. What we see is God's response to reconcile Jonah. Instead of destroying Jonah, God commands nature to stir. God causes a great wind to blow and a mighty storm to arise that threaten to break apart the ship that Jonah is in. This is an open water worthy vessel that would have been in seaworthy shape to haul cargo and passengers for the purpose of making money. It would have faced storms in previous journeys. The captain of the ship would have an extensive knowledge of the weather patterns along the shipping route to know whether to set sail or to alter the ship's course to avoid loss or added expenses to make the journey unprofitable. The captain would know, better than anyone else on board, the ship's capability and condition. God commands nature to act and nature responds. God knows the condition and situation of the ship better than the captain. God shows mercy to cause a storm that won't destroy the ship but stirs the hearts and minds of the passengers and crew to reveal their hearts and minds toward God. God is pursuing Jonah!

### **The Crew Responds to the Storm (v. 5 & 6)**

The ship's crew were likely seasoned sailors. They would have experience with sailing in stormy weather. The storm that God causes is severe and the crew respond in fear. The stated fact that the tempest (a violently windy storm) possessed such energy that the ship threatened to break the apart. The sailors responded in three ways to the fear of losing their ship and being cast into the violent seas. First, they responded spiritually. They cried out to their gods. They are spiritual men turn to their gods for help and protection. Second, they responded in the flesh. They take the cargo and begin tossing it overboard. Jettisoning cargo would have lightened the ship, improved its stability in turbulent waters, and increase its buoyancy to manage dynamic waves that might break over the ship flooding it. Finally, the sailors responded relationally. The captain seems to go to find Jonah in the cargo hull or passenger area and question him. The captain asks Jonah why Jonah is sleeping. The captain is appalled that Jonah isn't concerned or doing something to provide safety. He directs Jonah to stop sleeping, arise, and call out to Jonah's God. The captain doesn't know who Jonah is at this point in the account, but he wants Jonah to actively engage in saving the ship and the people on board. An interesting point in the interaction between the ship's captain and Jonah is that the captain gives Jonah the same command that God gave – "Arise". The captain continues his plea to Jonah and implores Jonah to engage spiritually so that the ship and people might be saved. The captain, fearing death, hopes that salvation might come from some god.

### **Jonah Doesn't Respond to God (v. 6)**

A mighty tempest, a violently windy storm, comes upon the ship and its passengers and they are afraid of dying. They respond spiritually, in the flesh, and relationally. These pagan people who

do not believe in the one true God are turning to their gods and pleading for others to do the same as a primary reaction to the fear of dying. Jonah does not respond to God in the storm. Jonah is fleeing from God and has purchased fare for a boat to take him far away. He boards the ship and immediately goes into the lower parts. There, Jonah falls asleep. This passage indicates that this was a physical situation, a spiritual situation, and a relational situation. Jonah is literally asleep. Jonah is spiritually asleep and unaware and ignorant to what God is doing. And he is relationally indifferent to the risk into which he has put others. Jonah being “asleep” reveals the condition that he put himself into by fleeing God’s presence. God is relentlessly pursuing Jonah. Pagans are grasping for any hope of life in any god that might listen and be able to save them. Jonah knows the true God who created and controls the universe and Jonah doesn’t respond to God, Jonah sleeps.

### **God Mercifully Corrects His People (SLIDE 6)**

#### **Sin Impacts God’s People (SLIDE 7)**

Rebellious

Ignorant

#### **God Pursues His People (SLIDE 8)**

God doesn’t reject His people

God doesn’t neglect His people

#### **God works to include His people in His work (SLIDE 9)**

God’s discipline and correction is effective to equip us to participate in God’s work.

### **God, Mercifully Correct me as your child! (SLIDE 10)**

I am capable of sinning and being ignorant of you and your work. Correct me so that I am aware of you and your work and desire to proclaim your salvation to those in need.

Thank you for pursuing me and correcting me so that I am in good standing with you.

**Read**

**Isaiah 1:25 ESV (SLIDE 11)**

**25** I will turn my hand against you and will smelt away your dross as with lye and remove all your alloy.

**Series Graphic (SLIDE 12)**

Daily Readings

Week 3 – God Corrects His Man

**Day 1**

**Isaiah 1:25 ESV**

**25** I will turn my hand against you and will smelt away your dross as with lye and remove all your alloy.

Isaiah records God's words to Judah as they have turned from God and have become defiled. God chooses to discipline them and restore them rather than destroy them. The imagery that God uses to describe His refining work is taken from the process of refining metals. Heat and chemicals are used to remove impurities (dross and alloy). This is an intense and timely process with the intent of creating a refined metal that is valuable in both use and preciousness. The language God uses is assertive and determined. As your God works on you, it will seem like angry work. God uses the necessary effort to remove from you the things that are detrimental to your spiritual life so that you may become pure and useful to God. Ask God to shape your heart and mind so that you would cherish God's work in you to remove anything that is not pleasing to Him. God corrects those who belong to Him!

**Day 2**

**Proverbs 3:11-12 ESV**

**11** My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, **12** for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Solomon's wise words temper our emotions and selfish reactions so that we can see what God is doing. For God's people, His discipline and correction are evidence of His great love. He isn't rejecting you for your sin and rejection of Him, but He is revealing your sin and correcting you so that you have a good conscience, are able to participate in His work, and be a son or daughter who brings God joy. God corrects those who are His!

## Day 3

### Hebrews 12:4-7 ESV

**4** In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. **5** And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,  
nor be weary when reproved by him.

**6** For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

**7** It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

The Hebrew author takes the passage from Proverbs 3 (yesterday’s reading) and encourages you to continue struggling against sinning and reminding you that as God disciplines you, He is doing so because you are His son or daughter. A good Father who genuinely loves His child will discipline and correct so that they can fully enjoy His presence and work. As God corrects you, embrace it and endure it. Praise God! You are His, He loves you deeply, and God corrects His people!

## Day 4

### Titus 1:15-16 ESV

**15** To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. **16** They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

Paul writes that there is a difference between God’s people and those who do not belong to Him. God’s sons and daughters know Him, desire to do the things He’s called and equipped them to do, and they do those things. The unbelieving people do not desire God nor to do His work. Paul writes that unbelieving people “are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.” That is strong language concerning people who claim to know God but deny him by their disobedience. Praise God that when you, who believes in Jesus by faith, behave like a person who doesn’t believe, God mercifully corrects you. Pray that God helps you know Him and affirm that relationship by His works through you. God corrects His people!

## Day 5

### Deuteronomy 8:5-6 ESV

**5** Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the Lord your God disciplines you. **6** So you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him.

The proof that you belong to God and are His son or daughter is found in your actions. You do not act a certain way so that you can become a son or daughter, but being a child of God will cause you to keep His commandments, walk in His ways, and worship Him. Just as a good father disciplines his children for their benefit, your Heavenly Father is helping you and loves you as His child. Know in your heart that God corrects you as His child!