

## Message Notes – February 25, 2024

### *Jesus and the Prophets – Something Greater than Jonah!\**

#### Thursday, February 29

Read Matthew 12:38-41. Jonah is the only Old Testament Hebrew Prophet with whom Jesus directly compared himself. During the Message, Pastor Jack gave several points of comparison and contrast. You can make your own compare and contrast analysis with the scripture pairings below. This exercise is from Nancy Guthrie's book, *The Word of the Lord* and will take some time but will stretch your Bible utilization skills! Have fun!

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Jonah</u>	<u>Jesus</u>
God's Word	Jonah 1:1	John 1:14
Sent by God	Jonah 1:2	John 3:17
God's Call	Jonah 1:3	Luke 9:43-44, 51-53
Obedience	Jonah 1:12	Hebrews 7:27
Guilty of Sin	Jonah 1:14	Matthew 20:28 Hebrews 9:28
3 Days/Nights	Jonah 1:17	Matthew 12:40
Power	Jonah 2:6	Matthew 10:18
Preaching	Jonah 3:4-5	Matthew 11:20
Repentance		
Anger and Sorrow	Jonah 4:1, 5	Luke 19:41-42
Response to Repentance	Jonah 4:3	Ephesians 2:3-5

#### Friday, March 1

Read Matthew 12:38-41. The only sign that matters is resurrection. (Verse 12:40) Resurrection, repentance and restoration are at the core of Jonah's story. It is the very purpose of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. We can say that both Jonah and Jesus are messengers from God but in truth they are the sign the Pharisees were looking for; both Jonah and Jesus themselves. How might you be a sign of God's desire for repentance, restoration and resurrection in today's world? Write your thoughts here.

- I. The prophetic Book of Jonah is a progressively \_\_\_\_\_ story that many learn from a young age.
  - A. The moral of the story for children is "Do what \_\_\_\_\_ wants you to do."
  - B. As people \_\_\_\_\_ and grow in \_\_\_\_\_, they learned the finer points of Jonah's fish story.
    1. We might think Jonah is running away because he's afraid of what the \_\_\_\_\_ might do to him
    2. Instead, Jonah is fleeing from "the presence of the \_\_\_\_\_."
    3. It's the same temptation we face today: the temptation to \_\_\_\_\_ and set up our own little Christian \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. Getting puked up by a large fish, I imagine, is a life changing experience and Jonah realizes that he cannot run from the \_\_\_\_\_ of God upon his life.
- II. What we come to realize about Jonah is that his fear is not so much about his potential \_\_\_\_\_ but about his potential \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. So Jonah walks a day into the city and he delivers an \_\_\_\_\_ message: "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"
  - B. God's \_\_\_\_\_ is wonderful and extended to the people of Nineveh and Jonah is ticked!
  - C. God basically tells Jonah, "You're mad about a \_\_\_\_\_ and yet seem to have no concern for a city full of 120,000 people who have \_\_\_\_\_ and the animals as well?"

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\*Jonah 3:1-4:5 and Matthew 12:38-41

- D. Jonah is a \_\_\_\_\_ prophet with a concern for his own people but we have new information that God also cares for others who are not like us and in fact, are our \_\_\_\_\_.
- III. Jesus is asked by the Pharisees to provide a \_\_\_\_\_ for them so that they may believe in him.
- A. Jesus tells them that no sign will be given except the sign of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Nancy Guthrie writes, “Of all the Old Testament prophets, Jonah is the only one with whom Jesus chose to directly \_\_\_\_\_.”
- C. The sign that Jesus is pointing to is \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. Something \_\_\_\_\_ than Jonah is here!
- IV. This is an invitation to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus and Jonah – don’t you think?
- A. In a very significant way, the whole narrative of Jonah’s life is about \_\_\_\_\_, salvation as well as wholeness and \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. The final question is will \_\_\_\_\_, as the living body of Christ in the world today, be in the world as “something greater than Jonah?”

## ***Daily Devotional Guide***

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, February 26**

The four-chapter Hebrew Book of Jonah is an increasingly complex story as one examines it for deeper meaning. What do you remember about the story of Jonah before you heard yesterday’s message? What do you remember about Jonah from your childhood? How has your knowledge of Jonah increased as

you’ve matured and grown in your faith? Meditate on these questions and write your reflections here.

### **Tuesday, February 27**

Read Jonah 3:1-4:5. If you have time today read the entire four chapters of Jonah. Either from your reading or from the message, what surprises did you encounter about this Hebrew prophet who lived 700 years before Jesus? Jonah had every reason to fear going to Nineveh. The Assyrians were a brutal people and the city of Nineveh was huge – a three day walk across it!

Jonah didn’t flee from the people of Nineveh but rather he was fleeing from God (1:10). One of the lessons a person can learn from the Book of Jonah is that you can’t run from God’s call. Has there ever been a time in your life that you actively avoided what you believe God wanted you to do? What feelings did you experience in doing so? Was the situation every resolved? How are you living more by God’s will than before? Meditate on these questions and write your ideas here.

### **Wednesday, February 28**

Read Jonah 3:1-4:5. Another observation we can make about Jonah’s story is that his fear is not one of failure and perhaps even death. Jonah is actually afraid of succeeding in his task of calling the people of Nineveh to repentance. After the complete repentance of the people (and animals) of Nineveh, Jonah prayed to God: "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning." Jonah then goes out of the city and pouts because God is merciful and forgives the people who are the enemies of the Hebrew people. Are you sometimes afraid of success over fearing failure? Sometimes success means more responsibility and perhaps wealth and property and now you have more to lose! Can you relate to Jonah’s success? Contemplate this concept of fear of success and write your ideas here.