1. Jonah the Anti-Prophet

Sermon Notes
Text: Jonah 1:1-17

Intro:

The purpose of Jonah's story is to point out hypocrisy.

Jonah 1:1-16

Jonah is a prophet who refuses to prophesy - he's the anti-prophet.

God is not bound by geography (Psalm 139:7-12)

Jonah is filled with twists and irony. The first twist is Jonah's response to God's command. The irony is found in the pagan sailors:

i. The pagan sailors are calling the prophet of the living God to pray
ii. Jonah has no concern for the lives of the sailors, but they risk their own to try to save his.

Are we asleep and unconcerned while the world around us is dying without knowing the name of the Lord?

Jonah's story serves us as an allegory for the hypocritical attitude of the sleepy church.

- The storm represents the state of the world apart from God.
- The pagan sailors represent the nations of the world, threatened by the storm.
- God's people are in the midst of the nations (we're in the same boat!)
- If Jonah doesn't fulfill his mission, the nations will perish even while they call out to their non-existent gods.

Our mission is to be God's messengers to a world that's about to sink without him.

Jesus, the true prophet

Jesus also slept in a boat during a storm (Mark 4:35-41).

Jesus didn't say "I'd rather die than preach to the nations." He said, "I'd rather die than see the nations perish."

Matthew 12:38-41 - the sign of Jonah

i. Jesus will spend 3 days and nights in the earth after his death, then rise to save the world from sin.
ii. The repentant people of Nineveh will cast judgement on the unrepentant Israelites (and the unrepentant Church)

Conclusion:

"Sir, if I believed what you and the church of God say that you believe, even if England were covered with broken glass from coast to coast, I would walk over it, if need be, on hands and knees…just to save one soul from an eternal hell like that!" ~Charles Peace

Connect Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Do you have any good fishing stories? Tell one to the group!

2. What stood out to you about Sunday's sermon? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Jonah 1:1-17 together. What stands out to you? Do you notice any Biblical themes or "hyperlinks" to other passages in the Bible?

2. Jonah is a true story, but the writer used it to provide an allegory for for the hypocritical attitude of God's people who were "sleeping" while the nations perished. What images in the story support this idea? Do you think God's people have gotten sleepy today? What do we need to do to "wake up"?

3. Read Mark 4:35-41. In what ways does this story compare with Jonah's story? How is it different?

4. Read Matthew 12:38-41. What is the sign of Jonah? Why will the people of Nineveh judge the generation Jesus is talking to? What do you think the world will say about today's generation of God's people?

Practice:

1. Have you been ignoring God? Is he asking you to do something, but you're refusing to do it? Are you being like Jonah? What would it take for you to respond in obedience? What are you afraid will happen if you obey? Take these concerns to the Lord in prayer. Ask him to change your heart, and take a step toward obedience today.

Prayer: