

Series: Brother Jonah!
Title: Submitting to God's Will
Text: Jonah 2
Thesis: The Purpose of Discipline

Recap Chapter 1: Running from God's Will

The Commission of Jonah: Vs 1-2

The Word of God
The Man of God
The Call of God
The Plan of God

The Flight of Jonah: Vs 3

The Resignation of Jonah from his calling.

Jonah had the wrong Attitude toward...

God's will: Thought it was optional

Witnessing: Thought he could turn it Off/On

His Enemies: Thought he could choose damnation for others.

The Pursuit of Jonah: Vs 4-16

Jonah lost God's Voice (Is 59:1-2)
Jonah lost the Power of the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30)
Jonah lost his desire to Pray: Vs 5
Jonah Lost his Testimony: Vs 10
Jonah Lost his Reason: Vs 12

(1 Sam 15:25) *Rebellion is as the Sin of Witchcraft*

Cannot be reasoned with

Would rather die in spite, than live in submission

God never makes us go against our Free-will, but Often He will change our circumstances to make us willing to GO.

Chapter 2: The Submission to God's Will

*Have you ever been on a cruise?
Out on Open water, where you lose sight of land?
It's just you and the big blue?*

(Ch 1:17) Jonah embarked on a 3day/3night, all expense paid tour of the lower parts of the Mediterranean on Discipline Cruise line!

*Why did Jonah have go into the Great Fish?
So Jonah would know it was God doing it.*

Why was God doing it?

To Discipline Jonah.

Why did God Discipline Jonah?

Because God loved Jonah?

(Heb 12:5-12) God disciplines His children for our good.
So as to restore their Fellowship with Him.

(Heb 12:5-6) He Rebukes us: (Ch 1:10)
He Chastens us: (Ch 1:4,13)
He Scourges us: (Ch 1:17)
He Heals us fully with death

(Heb 12:7-9) Discipline Reveals our Sonship (Ch1:9)
Discipline Renews our Worship (Ch 2:9)

(Heb 12:10-11) Discipline makes us partakers of his holiness
In times if Discipline, personal Revival can happen.
We tend to cast out sin from our lives, thus...
"yielding the peaceable fruit of righteousness"

Are you, to the best of your knowledge, Right with God?

God never makes us go against our Free-will, but Often He will change our circumstances to make us willing to GO.

(Chap 1:17) This Literally Happened! ***How do we know?***
(Matt 12:39-41) Because Jesus said to happened.

*Illus: I counsel people who have no intension of changing.
No intension of doing right.
Their just waiting on their whale!
Have you had Whale Cruise yet?*

***I'm not saying that Illness is a divine discipline for sin.
When I am sick, I do ask the Lord if I am right with Him.
I'm not saying that Financial struggle is a divine discipline for sin.
When I am in Financial distress, I do ask the Lord if I am right with Him. (Have we tithed? Gave offering?)***

What I am saying is, when I am not right with the Lord, I know it, and I try to ignore it.

When I am not right with the Lord, I don't like thinking about His discipline.

*When it finally becomes unbearable, I start asking....
Is this my whale Lord?*

*Illus: Because of My straying, the Lord afflicted my children.
B/c of the affliction of my Children I drew close to the Lord.*

(Ps 119:67) *Before I was afflicted I went astray: **but now** have I kept thy word. (Affliction can bring about Obedience)*

(Ps 119:71) *It is good for me that I have been **AFFLICTED**; that I might learn thy statutes.*

Affliction has a way of re-aligning our priorities.
Illus: Methodist Hospital: Dead twins - We was in the Whale.

Jonah Submitting to God's Will: Jonah Ch 2

The Helplessness of Jonah: (Vs 1-3)

Vs 1 "Then" - It took 3days & 3nights to break Jonah's will.
Jonah finally hits bottom:

Thank the Lord he is still alive when he hits bottom.
(Lk 15:15-20) The Prodigal Son!
"How deep the Whale gotta go?"

Vs 1 "Jonah Prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly," - to his astonishment, he was still alive.
It took 3days/nights to sink in, that this was of God.

Vs 2 "And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice."

One of the tell tale sings of being stiff-necked is Prayer without Repentance.

It finally got unbearable, so he humbled himself.

Jonah was willing to change his Heading, but not his Heart.
Jonah was willing to change his Behavior, but not his Bearing
Jonah was willing to change his Action, but not his Attitude.
Jonah was willing to change his Direction, but not his Disposition.

Vs 3 “*For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.*”

“*thou hadst cast me into the deep*”
all thy billows and thy waves passed over me

He blames God for his circumstances: As if God is a bully.

Don't blame God. (1 Cor 10:13) *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

Obedience is always the best Plan of escape!

The Prayer of Jonah: (Vs 4-7)

Vs 4 I admit that I broke fellowship

Yet I know God is rich in Mercy.

Restoration is God's Purpose for Discipline (2 Chron 6:36-29)

Vs 5-6 All of this, and “YET”

Jonah was a astonished that God had preserved his life.

The Repentance of Jonah: (Vs 7-9)

“*My Soul Fainted*” @ the edge of death befor he would pray

Ok God, you win, it is finally unbearable enough, I will go.

Really? How Deep does the Whale gotta go, brother Jonah?

Vs8*They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy*

Our Hard Heart is Deceitful and Untrustworthy.

His foolish pride almost cost him God's mercy.

How are we to respond to God's Chastening?

We can Resist it. (Acts 7:51) *Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.*

Ask Someone you trust if this is you?

Are You Always right?

Can you listen to anyone else?

Do you get Defensive and make excuses for your sins?

Lash out at others, and point out their sin?

Are you willing to examine your own life?

Do you Repeat patterns of Misbehavior?

Do you Pray and ask forgiveness, but show no Repentance?

IS THIS YOU?

We can Resist it, or we can Respond to it

Vs 9 **But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.**

Here is the key to Victory!

Here is the key to Revival!

But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving;

I will admit my sin - I will apologize to God for my sin

Have we forgotten the price of our sin; The Blood of Jesus.

(Ps 34:18) *The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.*

(Ps 51:17) *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

Pride grieves God, Brokenness secures Grace

Pride sets us up for a fall, Brokenness prepares the way for God's Favor

Pride Keeps us from Praying/Brokenness causes us to pray
Pride Blinds us to our sin/Brokenness opens our eyes to seek God's face
Pride is stiffnecked, Brokenness is a bowed head.
Pride brings rebellion, Brokenness is the heart of submission
Pride glorifies Self, Brokenness glorifies Christ
Pride compares self to others, Brokenness compares self to Christ
Pride mirrors Satan, Brokenness mirrors Christ
Pride seeks approval of men, Brokenness seeks approval of God
Pride leads to blaming circumstances, Brokenness takes
 Responsibility for failure
Pride makes us Critical, Brokenness makes us compassionate
Pride covers sin, Brokenness discovers sin

Are you, to the best of your knowledge, Right with God?

Lost: Today is the day to humble your pride, PRAY!
Confess your sin, turn from your sin, & embrace God's Mercy
& Receive God's Forgiveness.

Saved: If you are At odds with God today.

If God has spoken to you about sin in your life.
Its time to get completely honest with God.
Its time to agree with God's verdict about your sin.
 Its not an area of weakness, its Sin
 Its not an area of struggle, its Sin
Its time to confess all known sin
Its time to claim forgiveness, & thank God for it.

Is this you?

Are you willing to do anything God asks you to do?
Is God first in your plans?
Are you guilty of prayerlessness?
Have you neglected your daily bible reading?
Have you forgiven everyone that has wronged you?

Are you willing to ask forgiveness of those you have wronged?
Are you impatient?
Are you irritable?
Are you offended easily?
Do your hurt feelings keep you from faithfulness to God?
Have you been angry lately?
Are you bearing a grudge?
Have you Blown up at someone recently?
Have you been dishonest with God in anyway?
Have you broken a pledge to God or your family?
What about Covetousness?
Have you spread gossip?
Have you paid your debts to others?
Is there anything I will not give up for Christ?
HAve I talked about someone else's faults?

Is this you?

*Because of his affliction, Jonah was finally ready to GET
RIGHT and DO RIGHT!*

*OK You win: If you get me out of here I will fulfill my promise
on the day you saved me.*

The Deliverance of Jonah: (Vs 10)

After Jonah got right with God, he was able to disembark the
Whale.

Are you ready to Park your whale at the Altar this morning?

Are you ready to be free from the bondage of sin, and walk
free in submission to Christ.

LET'S PARK THE WHALE AND GET OUT.