

The Feeling of Discomfort – Part One

When You Are Outside of God's Will

11/27/2016 Sunday AM

Scripture Verses: Jonah 1:1-17

Sermon Notes

- **Examine your current life circumstances right now, are you comfortable with how things are going?**
- There may be many people here this morning that would answer that question with a resounding yes.
- However, there may also be a few of you that say you are really uncomfortable with where you are right now in life and with how things are going.
- Why is that? Should you be comfortable with your life right now? What needs to change?
- Two weeks ago we discussed the story of Jonah and asking the question What Are You Concerned About?
- This morning we are going to back up and look at the first half of the story of Jonah where he stepped outside of God's will and rebelled.
- We will see Jonah as a perfect example of someone that experienced The Feeling of Discomfort.

Jonah 1:1-17 (vv.1-5 and 17 provided below)

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: ²"Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." ³But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD. ⁴Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep.

¹⁷But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.

- As you read this entire chapter, you can clearly see that Jonah made a huge mistake in v.3 when he "ran away from the LORD."
- God has given Jonah clear instructions to go to the city of Nineveh and preach to the people there because they had become very wicked.
- Instead of Jonah doing what God had called him to do as a prophet, he disobeyed God and fled to Tarshish.
- We know from reading v. 4 that God sent a storm that was so bad that the people on the ship thought that the ship was going to be torn apart.
- While all of this was happening, Jonah was asleep below deck.
- The people on the ship were experiencing much discomfort in everything that was happening and when they woke Jonah up, he did too.
- The people on the ship "cast lots" to find out who was responsible for all that was happening to them and in v. 7, it says "and the lot fell on Jonah."
 - Casting lots was a practice in biblical days before Pentecost and the arrival of the Holy spirit, to determine the will of God. Sticks, rocks, or other objects with marking on them would be thrown down, and depending on how they fell, the reading would tell them what was the proper course. Rolling dice is a modern example of this practice. See Proverbs 16:33, Leviticus 16:8, Matthew 27:35 and Acts 1:26 for context on "casting lots."
- After they interrogated Jonah, he told them that he was a Hebrew and that he worshipped God "who made the sea and the land" in v. 9.
- V. 10 is key, when they found out that he worshipped God, they were terrified and they immediately asked him what he had done even though they already knew.
- They knew he was running away from God because he had told them, but they just put all the pieces of the puzzle together.
- They were all experiencing discomfort and borderline destruction because Jonah was fleeing from God.

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- Vv.13-15 show us that the storm got worse and the men wanted to know how to stop the waves.
- Jonah knew that he was the issue and he told them to throw him overboard and that would stop the storm.
- The men on the ship didn't want to do that, but when it was apparent that they had to, they prayed for God to be merciful to them and to not hold them accountable for Jonah's life.
- They were fearful of God. Even these men who more than likely did not worship God, feared him.
- So they threw Jonah overboard and everything calmed down.
- V. 16 is interesting in that these men then made sacrifices to God and also made vows to Him.
- V. 17 shows us that Jonah's discomfort had just begun because there was a giant fish or whale that swallowed him and he had to spend three days and nights in its belly.
- **The point in all of this is that God is not going to allow you to be comfortable when you are outside of his will.**
- Everything that happened to Jonah was because made it happen.
- God was the one making Jonah uncomfortable.
- Maybe you are uncomfortable right now because God wants you to be, so that you will wake up and understand that you are not in his will.
- As long as we are comfortable we do not seek to make a change, we simply keep on going until something comes along that provides a little discomfort to us.
- If you are running from God and trying get out of doing what he has instructed and called you to do, expect to be miserable.
- You might as well learn from Jonah's example and go ahead and obey God in the first place to save yourself a lot of discomfort.
- God pursues us and actively seeks to turn us around for our benefit. I am happy today that he does not just sit back and allow me to run away without actively getting involved in my life.
- So this morning examine yourself and see if you are in the place you need to be, ensure that you are in the will of God and are doing what he created and equipped you to do.
- Before you leave today thinking that your discomfort is all because of something you are doing wrong