Sunday, January 8, 2023

Changing Direction

(Part 3)

Jonah 1:1-3 (NLT)

1 The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai:

2 “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are.”

3 But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the Lord by sailing to Tarshish.

* Jesus mentions Jonah in **Matthew 12:40 (NLT)**

 “For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.”

1) God sent him on an assignment—1:2

2) He ran from his assignment—1:3

3) God pursues Jonah with major interruptions—1:4-17

4) Jonah is in the belly of a great fish—1:17 – 2:1-10

5) Jonah proceeds with His assignment—3:1-3

6) Jonah becomes angry with God—3:5-10, 4:1

7) Jonah becomes honest with God about his bigotry—4:1-3

**Jonah 4:1-3 (NLT)**

 1 This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry.

 2 So he complained to the Lord about it: “Didn’t I say before I left home that you would do this, Lord? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people.

 3 Just kill me now, Lord! I’d rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen.”

8) Finally, God gives Jonah a lesson on God’s divine love—4:4-11

Q = Why is discovering, understanding, and fulfilling our purpose important?

1) **My Purpose Gives My Life Meaning.**

1. InExodus 4, Moses stood at the burning bush disqualifying his Purpose.
2. My purpose gives my life meaning because…
3. Your life makes sense
4. God’s direction for your Life makes sense
5. Why God wired me this way makes sense

Jonah 1:2

 “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are.”

2) **My Purpose Motivates Me to Overcome the Trials of Life**

James 1:2-4 (English Standard Version)

 “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

John 16:33 (Living Bible)

 I have told you all this so that you will have peace of heart and mind. Here on earth, you will have many trials and sorrows; but cheer up, for I have overcome the world.”

3) **My Purpose Keeps Me Focused**

1. It’s human nature to become distracted

Jonah 1:3

 “But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the Lord by sailing to Tarshish.”

1. Without a clear purpose, we will keep moving in the wrong direction
2. There is nothing more powerful than a clear purpose-driven disciple.