


Jonah: Perplexing Prophet

Part 5 Jonah Pouts

TALKING WALKING POINTS

Leaders' Guide



A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

2021.3.4&7

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- 1 What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you? ...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- 2 In chapter 2, Jonah **begged mercy for himself**. Look up the definition of mercy. What is it?
- 3 In Jonah 4:2, the prophet **feared God might show mercy to others**. Do you think that's wrong—and, if so, **why exactly**? Be specific.
- 4 What does the Bible call someone with double standards?
- 5 Make a list of the sins found in Romans 1:28-32. (Did you find all twenty-five of them?) Look up in a dictionary any you aren't sure of (it wouldn't hurt to look up the ones you think you are!).
- 6 From what you know about Nineveh (or, see wikipedia), put a "✓" next to those things they likely did.
- 7 Now, assign a "badness number" to each sin: **1** = absolutely wicked **2** = really bad **3** = naughty
- 8 What additional actions, not listed in Romans 1:28-32, do you think **ought to have** made the list?
- 9 Now, circle the word "do" or "practice" (it appears three times in 1:32 and three more times in 2:1-3).
- 10 What claim does Romans 2:1 make about the actions listed in 1:28-32? **How can that be?!**
- 11 What should a person who is guilty of such sins do?
- 12 How must we view and treat other transgressors?

Ready to shed your "Jonah persona"?

For free biblical counseling, e-mail:
BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com

Application-Challenge

13

- How's your attitude? Bitter? Angry? Resentful?
I have wonderful news for you—you can dump it today with absolutely no loss.
- Are you consistent? Do you put people on a performance basis?
Would you want God to treat you the way that you treat others?
- How's your perspective? Are you working on things that are permanent or perishing?



- 1 This is a handy, “go-to” opening question. Easy to answer, yet often exposes misunderstanding or strong negative reactions. These can be gently dealt with, either in the meeting or individually afterward. Sometimes it tips you off to key growth opportunities.
- 2 mercy = “compassionate benevolence shown toward an offender who is in your power”. An important element of mercy is the idea of “not getting what one deserves”.
- 3 Probe for **why** folks think this is wrong. You’re asking them to make a moral judgment. One of the answers is: “That it’s wrong to have a double standard; people should be treated equally. Don’t move onto the next question until you’ve gotten that one. Ultimately, if necessary, offer it yourself.
- 4 James 2:1 & 9 call it the sin of showing “favoritism” or “partiality”. Leviticus 19:15 calls it “injustice”.
(As a side note: It is interesting to note in Leviticus 19:15 that favoring the poor over the rich is injustice. Our culture today considers favoring the poor and powerless to be an act of “social justice”, but **biblically** that is *injustice* rather than justice.)
- 5 **Get a notepad ready for this exercise.** Number from 1-25 down the left column. Then list the sins: 1-not acknowledging God; 2-do improper things; 3-filled with unrighteousness; 4-wicked; 5-greedy; 6-evil; 7-envious; 8-murderous; 9-strife; 10-deceitful; 11-malicious; 12-gossip; 13-slandering; 14-hate God; 15-insolent; 15-arrogant; 17-boastful; 18-invent evil; 19-disobey parents; 20-without understanding (**morally refusing** to understand—**not** “low IQ”. See Matthew 13:14-15); 21-untrustworthy; 22-unloving; 23-unmerciful; 24-knowingly disobedient to God’s ordinances; 25-encourage disobedience in others.
- 6 Obviously, we’re asking folks to make a guess. Do the best you can. Encourage discussion & comment.
- 7 This too is a subjective exercise. Encourage discussion & comment. It’s interesting what God lists here. Romans 1:18-32 is designed to show man’s free-fall into debauchery—and yet “disobedient to parents” made the list! Some will criticize it because it omits sins which are unforgivable in our culture: racism, rape, homophobia... What do folks think about the items **God** finds particularly offensive? Note that this last part of the discussion morphs into the next item **8**. Be ready to segue...
- 8 Add these to the list.
All the questions, from **5** to **8** have been building a case for what’s coming next...
- 9 The purpose of this question is to attach the evil actions listed in 1:28-32 to the observation in 2:1.
- 10 Romans 2:1 teaches that whatever we judge to be wrong in others, becomes the rope with which we hang ourselves—for the claim of this verse is that **we do all those same things** we judge others for! You’ll encounter push-back on this idea—but that’s clearly what this verse is teaching. Is it true? We believe that everything in the Bible is true. So, **how** is it true? Discuss this with your group. Some ways are obvious—you **yell** at your kids, “Keep the noise down in there!” Other ways are less obvious: you’ve never murdered or committed adultery, but see Matthew 5:21-22 and 27-29.
- 11 Repent and confess to God. 12 Have humility toward other sinners. Desire mercy—not justice—for all.
- 13 As we wrap up this sermon series, urge members to take the appropriate actions. Those who hear, but don’t do, are **deluded**—and they’re doing it to themselves! (James 1:22)

Urge the men in your group to join you for the up-coming PointMan Firepit breakfast!
(Are **you** registered yet?!) 

PointMan Breakfast at the fire pit!

- Saturday, March 13
- 9⁰⁰-10³⁰am
- Just \$10
- Bring a camp chair
- Chick-fil-a breakfast (gluten free option available)
- To register: tcc.org Keyword: **PointMan**



TIME IS
RUNNING OUT!

