



Lesson 3

“Restored”

Have you ever thought that the story of Jonah was not about Jonah?

Jonah 1:1 Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

Jonah 1:2 Arise, **go to Nineveh**, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

- The story of Jonah was about the people of Nineveh
- The story of Jonah is about people that needed God

God’s plan:

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15bHow beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Jonah....

- “You are my messenger”
- “You were created to please me as your God”

- “Go to them!”

This is what Jonah needed to know.....

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

YOU WERE CREATED BY GOD

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee

- You were part of God’s plan!
- You matter
- You are important to God

YOU WERE CREATED BY GOD FOR HIS PLEASURE

- God takes Joy in you!

Psalms 139:13 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works;

wonderfully made = to distinguish - put a difference, show marvelous, separate, set apart, sever, make wonderfully.

YOU WERE CREATED BY GOD FOR HIS PURPOSE

1 Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

- Jonah was called by God to reach Ninevah
- You are called by God to reach Columbus

YOU ARE RESTORED BY GOD

YOU ARE RESTORED BY GOD FOR HIS PLEASURE

- God saved Jonah because God loved Jonah
 - God did not send the storm to kill Jonah, but to save him
 - God did not send the whale to kill Jonah, but to redeem him
- You might get off track, but God has not given up on you!

Look back....

Jonah 2:2 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.

- Restored His Relationship
- Refocused His Attention

Jonah 2:4 Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

- Renewed His Mind

Jonah 2:7 When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.

- “I’m called by God”
- “I matter to God”

Jonah 2:9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.

- “Lord, I belong to you”
- “My life is yours”

Jonah 2:10 And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

But, this is where we often stop

- Happy to be out of the mess, but we don’t get back to the mission

Jonah 3:1 And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying,

God is a God of second chances!

YOU ARE RESTORED BY GOD FOR HIS PURPOSE

Jonah was spit up on the shore....WHY?

- The Lord was waiting for Jonah on that shore line to restore him to his purpose!

Jonah 3:2 Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, **and preach** unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

Jonah 3:3 So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD.

- God was telling him, “Jonah, run to the broken”

- God was not finished with Jonah!

Remember: God Restores!!!

- He restored Jonah
- He will restore you!

Psalms 51:12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

- Restore – return to the starting point
- Joy - cheerfulness; specifically, welcome:--gladness, joy, mirth, rejoicing.