

HBC Pulpit Curriculum

An Example Not to Follow – Four Pitfalls of a Prideful Prophet

Jonah 1 - 4

This material is designed to help give you ideas for discussing the sermon profitably. We trust the lifegroup leaders to choose the questions that will be most helpful to their groups. No one should feel obligated to complete ALL the questions. The reason there is so much material is to offer guidance for those who would like to study the topic more fully during their devotion times during the week.

Introduction

Open in prayer

Jesus, when asked what is the greatest commandment replied, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.... The second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself “(Matt. 22: 37 – 39). Pastor Jon stated that our love for God is revealed in how we love others, and that our love for God fuels our love for others. What about you? Is there room in your heart and life to love others, even those who are unlovely? How will you increase your love for God in order to fuel your love for others?

I. Pitfall # 1 – Rebellion Against God (Read Jonah 1: 1 – 3).

God’s Word comes to Jonah, but instead of obeying, he disobeys – going in the opposite direction of God’s call. He refused to follow God because he did not want the city of Nineveh to be saved. Have you rebelled against the Lord in this way? Have you been involved in a sin that you are unwilling to forsake? Do you see this as rebellion against God? Read Romans 6: 6 and Romans 13: 14. What is the promise of God and our responsibility?

II. Pitfall # 2 – Half-Hearted Repentance (Read Jonah 2: 1 – 10).

Jonah prayed to the Lord from the belly of the fish. He was in a dark, lonely, stinky place where he had an opportunity to consider his life. When we rebel against God, do we understand that He puts us in these type places for our good? Read Hebrews 12: 5 -6. Why does God discipline His children? Do you see the mercy of God in your difficulty?

III. Pitfall # 3 – No Love for the Lost (Read Jonah 3: 1 – 3).

Remember what Pastor Jon said about Jonah’s unwillingness to walk around the city for three days and preach? How far does your love for others extend? Are you willing to love those who hate you? How do we become people who love the unlovely?

IV. Pitfall # 4 – Arrogant Self Righteousness (Read Jonah 4: 1 – 4).

The Ninevites worshipped false gods, were cruel, and arrogant. Yet, Nineveh repented. Jonah and Israel had the right theology, but their hearts were prideful about their perceived righteousness. Describe Jonah’s attitude when Nineveh repented. Are you treating someone in your life as if they do not deserve God’s mercy and grace? How do you plan to change your heart so that you remove yourself from God’s throne and put Him in the proper place in your life?

Continue praying for a Worship Pastor and for additional staff. Pray for Pastor Mark and his family, as they begin their life here in Hickory!