

Remnant Life Church
June 1, 2014
Jonah 4:1-3

“Anger Does Not Own Me – Part 2”

- First 2 types of anger – Sudden; Sinful
 - Sudden are the outbursts that must be controlled by daily giving our lives over to God for His love and mercy to show through us
 - Sinful anger is without cause or in the face of someone who wants to make a situation right; must be repented of just like any other sin

- Third type of anger – Stubborn
 - Jonah shows us the many dangers of stubborn anger
 - God assigns the prophet Jonah to go and preach repentance to the city of Ninevah
 - To understand why Jonah reacted as he did we need to know who and what Ninevah was...

- **Ninevah**
 - The capital city of the Assyrian nation and the largest city in the world
 - Approximate circumference of 60 miles located on the eastern bank of the Tigris River in modern day Iraq
 - Scholars estimate a population of over 600,000 in and around the city in a time when the worlds' population was only about 5 million
 - The Assyrian empire was a very evil one that was feared throughout the land
 - They were exceptionally cruel; practiced every type of witchcraft and debauchery all throughout their society
 - They would have been in every way detestable to the Jews – the very definition of a Gentile people (anyone not Jewish)
 - The Bible speaks of Ninevah several times
 - The first in **Genesis 10:11** as a city founded by Nimrod, the great-grandson of Noah after the flood
 - Two books of the OT are dedicated to the judgment of God on Ninevah – Jonah and Nahum
 - Virtually every time the Bible uses the name of Ninevah it is as a benchmark of evil and God's judgment of sin
 - Why would Jonah have run? In modern events...
 - Imagine you are a Jewish Rabbi living in NYC in the early 1940's. God tells you that Germany is about to come under a terrible judgment but before that happens you are to go to Berlin and preach repentance to the Nazi's. Instead you run to SF and take a boat headed for Hong Kong.

- Jonah flees and tries to run from God
 - This was one of the first lies that Satan put into the heart of man when sin entered
 - **Gen. 3:9-10** - *But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."*
 - God is omnipresent and omniscient – meaning everywhere knowing everything
 - **I John 3:20** - *If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.*
 - We cannot run from God – not physically, emotionally, intellectually, and certainly not spiritually
- Jonah returns to Ninevah
 - He preaches to the people as God had instructed him to
 - He was told twice
 - **Jonah 3:1** – *"Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time"*
 - The people repent
 - God's anger is abated
 - But Jonah is not pleased – as a matter of fact he is angry! (**4:1**)
- **There are two reasons why Jonah was angry by what had taken place**
 1. He really did not want these pagan Gentiles to be spared the wrath of God.
 - a. Jonah felt that they had it coming
 - b. Now he has entered into sinful anger which eats away at our very spirit (like unforgiveness)
 - c. His desire is for retribution something that goes against how those that know God should live
 - i. The OT law was equal measure for equal offence (**Ezek. 21:24**)
 - ii. But Jesus came and brought a fulfillment of the law to make it even better (**Matt. 5:38-42**)
 - d. As a prophet he was setting aside, removing the covenant that God had made with Abraham
 - i. **Gen. 22:18** - *and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.*
 - ii. But the Jews throughout their history of the Bible struggled with sharing the love of God with other peoples – especially those that they thought did not merit it
 - iii. Through the NT at the encounter between Paul and Peter (**Gal. 2:11-21**)
 - e. God's love today, through the person of Jesus Christ, is for everyone!

2. Jonah did not want to look foolish
 - a. READ 4:1-3
 - b. Jonah's pride began to rise up because he cared more about himself and his reputation
 - c. His pride took him from focusing on the task that God had set before him – one that he accomplished to God's glory – to one of "what's in it for me?"
 - d. Would not 3 days riding around the open ocean in the belly of a fish have made an impact on his thinking?
 - i. Does it on ours?
 - ii. God still uses the belly of the fish in our lives today when needed
 - iii. What has been your three days in the fish times?
 - iv. Did you allow it to make a difference in your life?

Sudden anger must be controlled
Sinful anger must be condemned
Stubborn anger must be conquered

- Only by recognizing the majesty of God and the fact that we are nothing without Him will allow us to release our anger quickly and calm our spirits
- And only that will prevent the enemy from gaining a foothold into our lives (Eph. 4:26-27)
- Next week – Righteous Anger