

Communion Meditation – Jonah

Jonah 1.4 (read 1 to 4)

“God Gives Chase”

April 7th, 2013

Last Week Jonah Disobeyed God and Ran Away

- Last week we covered Jonah’s disobedience
 - **Verse 3** begins “But Jonah arose to flee .. from the presence of the Lord.”
 - Jonah ran away from God rather than perform His will
 - The disobedience ~ running away ~ reflects conflict of beliefs / of ideals

If You Love Something . . .

- ///: Popular saying ~ around for 40 years ~ “If you love something, set it free. If it comes back, it’s yours. If it doesn’t, it never was.”
 - “Have you heard the variant?” ~ “If you love something, set it free. If it loves you it will come back to you. If it doesn't – hunt it down and kill it.”
- These 2 sayings reflect 2 wrong views of love
 - The first is popular in our culture ~ love is defined as “letting go”
 - The second – “hunt it down and kill it” appeals to the hurt – the rejection
- God appears to favor the “hunt it down” approach

Read Verse 4 ~ “But the LORD sent out a great wind .. about to be broken up.”

- **Verse 3** ended with Jonah fleeing “from the presence of the LORD”
 - God responds immediately to Jonah running away
 - “Did God set Jonah free .. to see if he’d return to Him?”
- ///: Brother Mike ran away ~ Car ride to BHS ~ Father punching him in arm
 - My father showed his love oddly ~ it frightened me
 - Just as this storm frightened the sailors

It is a Part of our Fallen Nature to Run & Hide From God

- Adam & Eve hid from God in the Garden
- But what happened? ~ God called out to them . . He sought them out . .
- God pursued them for their own good .. He pursues us for our own good . .

If you are God’s child expect storms in your life if you run from Him . .

The greater your sin . . the greater the storms . .

Does this mean God hates you? ~ No, it means God loves you, and wants you safe . .