



THE GOD WHO PURSUES

SERMON STUDY - 8.3.2025

Leader Corner

You've Got To Own It

Jonah 1:4-17

There are so many truths and life lessons in today's passage. Let's take a look at how God can use His people, even if they are disobedient, in order to promote His Kingdom and salvation.

Main Idea: You've got to own it!

Main Practice: Do it God's way.

Main Teaching: Jonah 1:4-17

Connect with Prayer & Praise

Have someone read Luke 11:28, then have someone pray over your group, including praying that group members will respond to God's commands in their lives.



with Principle

1. Read aloud Jonah 1:4-17.
2. What challenged you in last Sunday's sermon? What questions did the message bring to your mind?
3. There are several life lessons presented here. Let's look at some of those presented in these verses.
4. "You can run but you cannot hide" from God. Discuss this truth in light of the following scriptures: Psalm 139:7-12, Jeremiah 23:23-24, Luke 8:17, Hebrews 4:13.
5. Going against the will of God is not a great idea. While God will not disown those who have put their faith in Jesus, there *are* consequences for those who "run the other way" from God's will. See Proverbs 3:11-12, Matthew 7:26-27, Hebrews 12: 7-11, Revelation 3:19 and discuss those consequences.
6. Our sins affect not only ourselves, but others; in this case the sailors on the ship. What does scripture say about our sins' effects on others? Helpful passages: Proverbs 10:17, Matthew 18:6-7, Romans 2:21-24, 14:12-13.
7. "Owning" your own misdeeds (aka repentance) is the first step in forgiveness and restoration of relationships. What does the New Testament say about owning our mistakes? Read and discuss Matthew 4:17, 12:41, Luke 5:31-32, 13:3-5.
8. Re-read verses 11-12 of Jonah 1 (we're all in the same boat). Both believers and non-believers share this same world. Jonah, having compassion on these pagans, was willing to sacrifice for the common good of all. Is this biblical? Discuss after reading these passages: Proverbs 29:7, Leviticus 19:10, Matthew 5:16+42, Galatians 6:10, Ephesians 4:32, 1 John 4:19-20.

with Practice

Is there something in your life that you need to "own" either between you and God or between you and another person? Ask God to give you a heart of repentance and bring that relationship back into its proper state. Make amends in so far as it is possible.

for Further Study

It is interesting that the pagan sailors had to point out to Jonah that he was not following his own faith claims! Do you see any parallels today in the world's view of the Christian community? Are they sometimes correct? How should we respond? Helpful scriptures: Jeremiah 23:11, Mark 7:6, Luke 6:46, Titus 1:16, James 1:22-25, 1 Peter 2:16.