



Renewal

Jonah 1:11-16 | Ryan Pfeiffer | Oct 1, 2023

Recap: Storms/ conflicts/ Difficulties have way of revealing blind spots:

- Where our trust truly lies
- Fear, Doubt, Anxiety
- Anger, Pride, Control
- Addictions, Patterns of coping

If we're willing these can become moments of spiritual breakthrough.

Areas of our heart and mind that are not aligned with God... need RENEWAL.

What is RENEWAL? Titus 3:5 He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Renewal- ἀνακαίνωσις (anakainōsis)- to make something new... different...

We all want renewal... Personally... for our World.

Anxiety—> Peace

Prejudice—> Compassion

Addiction—> Self control

Control—> Trust, flexibility

Bible teaches its rooted in a need for transformation at our deepest self.

Something we can't do on our own... only through Jesus and God's Spirit.

FOCUS. How do we open our life to God's renewing power? What happens?

JONAH. V12 "Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you."

1. I wanted control... I wanted my way... Isn't this what I love about her?

The Bible calls this repentance... changing our minds, perspective to God's.

Repentance opens the door to God's Holy Spirit to renew us.

Here we see it begins with being honest with our sin... our failure... our plank



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Matt 7:3 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?”

Jonah... he’s running from God... God’s grace toward non-believers...
Repentance is how we confront what has not been surrendered to God.

Jonah—> vs 9 I am a Hebrew, AND I fear the LORD... Something before God.

The trap is thinking renewal begins by changing circumstances... others...
It begins with us... humbling ourselves... repenting... realigning with God.
Repenting doesn’t renew us or transform us... IT OPENS THE DOOR.

SAILORS—> Salvation. 15 So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. 16 Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

Jonah’s plunge didn’t cause the storm to stop... it was the power of God.

“the men feared the LORD exceedingly...” Their faith shifts in two ways:

- General to specific... “gods” ... to YHWH... THE GOD. from Many to ONE.
- Abstract idea of god to YHWH. —> Personal

John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

RENEWAL is contagious! When others see it—> curious—> awakens...

To follow Jesus is to enter into his great love for people far from God.

Jonah’s plunge into the sea represents two things...

1. in the moment... His surrender to God
2. foreshadow... a premonition of something greater... Jesus’ sacrificial love.

Jonah sacrifices himself for the crew... God’s self giving love is taking hold!

Jonah’s sacrificial act awakened the sailors to the truth of God’s love.



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For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be; God sacrifices himself for man and puts himself where only man deserves to be. Man dains prerogatives which belong to God alone; God accepts penalties which belong to man alone.

— John Stott, The Cross of Christ.

On the cross Jesus sacrificed himself for us... for you... your friends... family

Titus 3:4 But—When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, 5 he saved us ... He washed away our sins...

Have you accepted and received God's love... that renews us inside out?

There is a consequence to living without God as god of our own life.