

"The Long and the Short of It" (It's Time to Agree with God) Week 7

Sermon Date 6/11/2017

MY STORY

- 1) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 2) Did you have any opportunities this past week to trust God? If so, will you share with the group?

QUICK REVIEW

- 1) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

The Goal

This week Pastor Craig unpacked the story of Jonah and how his attitude about service was backwards. We will be delving a little deeper into different opportunities for serving others. Pastor said, "Jesus served others and I'm following Him!" To follow Him means that I will be serving others. One key thought in serving others is that it begins with our hearts and attitudes and is then followed by our actions as we follow Jesus.

DIGGING DEEPER

Jonah 1:1-3 (NLT)

The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: ² "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are."

³ But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the Lord by sailing to Tarshish.ⁱ

- 2) What was Jonah's response to God's call for him to go to Nineveh?

God was asking him to serve the people of Nineveh by telling them what the Lord was going to do if they didn't repent. Johan's response was to run the opposite direction.

To summarize the next part of the story, Jonah is thrown overboard from the boat and swallowed by a fish. He spends three days in the belly of the fish and in Chapter 2 he repents, and God commands the fish to vomit him onto the shore.

- 3) Do you think Jonah could have avoided this situation?
- 4) If so, what could he have done differently?
- 5) What is your takeaway from Jonah's story?

TAKING IT HOME

We live in a world where serving others takes a backseat to ME. Selfishness is something we all struggle with in some capacity. It begins in us when we are very young. If you don't believe me, hang out with a couple of three-year-olds for a day and count how many times you hear the word "mine". The point is, selfishness is easy—it takes no effort on our part. Having an attitude of service that leads to action comes from following Jesus.

John 13: 4-17

⁴ So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, ⁵ and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

⁶ When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will."

⁸ "No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!"

Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me."

⁹ Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!"

¹⁰ Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." ¹¹ For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing?" ¹³ You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. ¹⁴ And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. ¹⁵ I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.ⁱ

- 6) What is Jesus modeling for us in this passage?

Foot washing was a contemporary practice for the culture of Jesus' time. It was considered the lowliest of jobs. It was a practice to wash the dust accumulated while wearing sandals, and it was not a job that would have been done by the leader of a group. In fact, it was something the disciples were unwilling to do for one another.

7) What is a modern-day equivalent of foot washing?

Maybe cleaning a bathroom or something that requires invading someone's personal space. What other acts of service come to mind?

8) Would this kind of service be a choice or a feeling? Why?

Matthew 10:42

And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded."

9) From the previous passage, what type of need is Jesus referring to?

The physical need for water.

10) What other types of needs do people have around us?

Below are three ways we can serve others around us.

- With our words

11) What is an example of serving someone with our words?

- With our actions

12) What is an example of serving with our actions?

- With our prayers

13) What is an example of serving someone with our prayers?

14) Are there any other ways we can serve others around us?

15) What areas of service do you struggle with the most? Family, friends, work, coworkers, etc.

This week Pastor Craig challenged us to make a Top Ten list of people we could serve. Below are spaces to create that list.

- | | |
|-----|------|
| 1.) | 6.) |
| 2.) | 7.) |
| 3.) | 8.) |
| 4.) | 9.) |
| 5.) | 10.) |

16) Would you share a name from your list and how you will serve them this week?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Read the entire book of Jonah this week.

- 17) What lessons do you find in the text?
- 18) How did the Ninevehites respond to Jonah? What can we learn from their response?
- 19) What attitudes need to change in your personal life to allow you to become more service-oriented?
- 20) Pray and seek ways to serve the people on your Top Ten list. Look for opportunities to serve them.

ⁱ Tyndale House Publishers, [*Holy Bible: New Living Translation*](#) (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Jon 1:1–3, John 13:4-17, Mt 10:42.