Steps to Backsliding

Jonah

Prov. 14:14

**Отступник в сердце насытится путями своими: и добрый человек – от себя.**

1. Nineveh (600 B.C.) was a real city.

2. Jesus Christ told of the “sign” of Jonah concerning the death, burial, and resurrection of Jonah.

If you don’t believe it the Jew would not believe in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Skeptics concerning the book of Jonah –

Some wonder whether Jonah was a real man.

The city could not be large “three day’s journey” (Jon. 3:3, 4)

A whale could not swallow a man whole.

Refuse to believe that Jonah died and came back.

“The book of Jonah is a myth, an allegory, a parable.”

4 times in the gospels Jesus mentioned Jonah as a sign.

Scholars finally said that Nineveh was a very big city.

29 ¶ А когда люди собрались во множестве, он начал говорить, Это есть злой род: они ищут знамения; и никакое знамение не дастся ему, кроме знамения Ионы пророка.

30 Ибо как Иона был знамением для ниневитян, так будет и Сын че­ловеческий для рода этого.

Matt. 12:38-41

38 ¶ Тогда некоторые из книжни­ков и фарисеев ответили, говоря, Учитель, хотелось бы нам увидеть от тебя знамение.

39 Но он ответил и сказал им, Род злой и прелюбодейный ищет знаме­ния; и никакое знамение не дастся ему, кроме знамения пророка Ионы:

40 Ибо как Иона был в чреве кита три дня и три ночи; так и Сын чело­веческий будет в сердце земли три дня и три ночи.

41 Ниневитяне восстанут на суд с родом этим, и осудят его: потому что они покаялись от проповеди Ионы; и, вот, здесь больший, чем Иона.

The fact that Jonah died in the belly of the whale. His soul went to hell.

**I. HE REJECTED HIS CALL** отвергать, отклонять; отказываться

1. He had a specific call. To go to Nineveh.

i. To cry against the city.

ii. The wickedness had come up before God.

**ILL.** How to get on social media. Go out and tell people about the Lord.

**ILL.** Every city needs? Street preaching!

**ILL.** 15 year-old young man, On the street “Who is Adam and Eve?”

**ILL.** “I’ve been thinking about God lately.”

**ILL.** Crying girl “Do you think God can save me.”

2. It is a call to see sinners saved.

3. It is a call to take reproach

2 Cor. 12:10 Поэтому я нахожу удовольствие в немощах, в **поношениях**, в нуждах, в гонениях, в мучениях ради Христа: ибо, когда я слаб, тогда я силен.

**II. HIS COP OUT** (Jon 1:3) отговориться, отвертеться

1. He runs away from saving Gentiles.

i. He fled.

“went down to Joppa” 1:3

“went down into it” 1:5

“went down…” 1:6

ii. He eventually gets thrown out of the ship and goes down in the belly of the whale.

iii. Then he goes down into hell (Jon. 2:2)

2. You are a light.

He had the light.

3. He withheld the truth when he was called to preach the truth.

4. The Lord knew

**III. HIS CIRCUMSTANCES** (v. 3) обстоятельство

1. He found a ship.

i. He was looking for a way out.

ii. You’ll find circumstances that will keep you from the Lord’s will.

**ILL.** The ‘girl’ will just happen to like you.

That ‘boy’ will just happen to go after you.

That job will just happen to pull you away from church more and more.

**ILL.** Fatal success – a job, the wrong girl, the wrong man,

2. It cost him

Sin is never free. It always cost you something. It always demands more.

**ILL.** You have to pay for alcohol, drugs, etc.

Rom. 6:21 what fruit did you have in those things? NONE!

3. Think about the fruit that is in alcohol, lust, covetousness, envy, jealousy, etc.

Rom. 6:22 now you’re called to bring forth fruit unto holiness. Because the fruit of trusting the Lord Jesus Christ is ETERNAL LIFE.

Cf. Prov. 23:23 **Купи истину, и не продавай; *также* мудрость, и наставление, и разум.**

It’s always worth it to pay for the truth. It is always for your good.

It will cost you something but there is always reward for it.

i. What has Jonah already lost?

- Jonah already lost the presence of the Lord.

- Peace with God.

- Joy of the Lord.

4. Choose who you want to pay.

Josh. 24:14 ¶ Поэтому бойтесь теперь ГОСПОДА, и служите ему в искренности и в истине: и удалите богов, которым служили отцы ваши на другой стороне потока, и в Египте; и служите ГОСПОДУ.

15 А если служить ГОСПОДУ вам кажется злым, изберите себе сегодня, кому вы будете служить; богам ли, которым служили отцы ваши, что *были* на другой стороне потока, или богам аморитов, в земле которых вы живете: но что до меня и дома моего, **мы будем служить ГОСПОДУ.**

Paul Rom. 6:16

You’re going to pay one or the other.

If you serve sin, it will never be satisfied. It always demands more. It always wants company.

**ILL.** One tall can of bear. He was almost drunk. Later he had to drink 6 tall cans of bear.

**IV. JONAH’S CATASTROPHE** катастрофа

1. He comes the storm (v. 4)

i. weather always has a spiritual side to it. God is behind it.

**ILL.** It just ‘happened’ “The storm just ‘happened’ to come.”

**ILL.** Aaron “And

Exod. 32:24

И я сказал им, Всякий, у кого есть какое золото, пусть снимут *его*. Так они отдали *его* мне: затем я бросил его в огонь, **и вышел этот телец.**

Job 37:10-14

13 **Он повелевает ему прихо­дить, – для исправления ли, или для земли своей, или для милости.**

14 **Внимай сему, О Иов: стой, и рассматривай чудные дела Божьи.**

2. God sends certain things in our lives for a purpose.

Acts 27:4, 14

**ILL.** стихийное бедствие, природная катастрофа

When the Jews disobeyed God.

When the Gentile nations hate the Jews.

2. The lack of discernment (v. 5)

Job 6:30 Есть ли беззаконие на языке моем? **разве вкус мой не может раз­личить извращенное?**

**ILL.** TV, telephone, I pad, etc. are what is calling people to be less disciplined, **lazier**, and less discerning.

i. 4 point outline from a pagan shipmaster **“O sleeper”** (Jon. 1:6)

To feel secure in some trouble is worse that the trouble itself.

ii. The lost sailors had more discernment (v. 7).

iii. They had questions and they wanted answers (v. 8)

Usually backsliders do not wake up. Some do. Some wait ‘till it’s too late.

**V. JONAH’S CONFESSION**

v. 12 “for may sake…”

v. 16 the storm also was used to strike fear in the hearts of others.

The unsaved offered up their sacrifice.

1. God’s plan – Ninevites were in NEED.

2. God’s mercy (3:1-4)

i. They got saved, (v. 10)

In chapter 1 I got his mind.

In chapter 2 I got his will.

3 body went to

But never got his heart.

How are you going to get his heart? “I’m going to show him how dumb he is.

God gave him a plant. But it perished (v. 10).

The plant is here today, gone tomorrow.

I made these people. I’m concerned about these people.

He had to learn the lesson of God’s pity.

If the heart is right, the will will be right, the body will be right.

Prov. 23:26 **Сын мой, отдай сердце твое мне, и пусть глаза твои да наблюдают пути мои.**

4:23 **Со всем усердием храни сердце твое, ибо из него выходы жизни.**

Conclusion

Saved

Unsaved

You’ll go to **“hell”** (Jon. 2:2)

Now, there is no getting out once you go there.