

CgiKawartha-2025-LarryA-IsOurSinPuttingUsInTheBellyOfTheWhale?

Good afternoon everybody

Nice to see all your smiling faces here today. I would like you to turn your Bibles if you're gonna follow along to the book of Jonah and I'm gonna tell you a fishing story

Well, I was out fishing and caught a fish that big the other day. That's my fishing story.

Jonah, everybody knows I think the story of Jonah. I'm going to read a few verses in Jonah that I'm going to talk about. And in Jonah is at Obadi and before Micah.

So,

Jonah Jonah 1.

Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah, the son of Ed -Till, saying, "Rise and go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it, for their wickedness is come up before me." But Jonah rose and fled unto Tarshish. Okay, that's all I'm reading there.

Okay, so we know the story of Jonah. Jonah turned around and heard this and fled. Doesn't say he discussed it with him. He just went to Tarshish. I don't want to do this job. And I guess the understanding is once you're a prophet of the God, You do what God says. You can't you can't pick and choose your your details but over in Jonah

Jonah 1 go down to verse 12 The Jonah's been Talking to the men on the boat and he says and he said unto them take me up and cast me forth unto the sea So shall the sea be calm unto you for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you." So he's taking the blame for it. Nevertheless, the man rode hard, okay, in 14, therefore they cried out unto the Lord. Listen to this. They cried out unto the Lord. Not their gods, but to the Lord. So they must have knew of Jonah's God. And said, "This is in 14. We beseech thee, O Lord. We beseech thee,

Let us not perish for this man's life and lay not upon us innocent blood, for thou, O Lord, has done as it pleases thee." In 15,

"So they took up Jonah and cast him forth into the sea, and the sea ceased from her raging. And then the men feared the Lord exceedingly and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord and made vows. That is something, the fact that they knew the Lord and they thanked Him for it. They were grateful for knowing what to do even though they didn't want to do it and couldn't do nothing about it. And And in verse 17 says, "Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." So that kind of leads me into my title.

Are you ever in the belly of a whale?

And when at the time when, I'm going to go back over a little bit of this here because of my notes, at the time when God told Jonah what to do, there was no mention of him arguing with him and saying, "Can I do something different tomorrow?" And there was no back and forth. And I'll get to that later because it actually does mention

because he told not anyway I'll leave that to I come to Because it's okay.
I'll do it right now He didn't want to go to Nineveh and it says in verse if you
turn over to four one But it just displeased Jonah
Exceedingly and he was very angry and he prayed unto the Lord and said, "I pray
thee, O Lord, was not this my saying when was I yet in my country?" So he did
have some discussion with him. He said he was exceedingly pleased. That didn't affect
God. God doesn't base his decisions on how you feel angry about what you don't want
to do. as a servant of God you go and do it. So that's part of being in the
belly of a whale.

Because when God tells us to do something from this book,
where to do it? I don't remember a call of anybody that I know of and heard of
anybody know of that God came down and directly talked to them in this time of
this time but this is his word preserved for us to read and to understand what
tells you not to do something you go and do it you're obviously not obeying God so
so that was Jonah's sin and that's why he was in the belly of the whale
So we have to look at our lives, is our sin putting us in the belly of the
whale? Do we do things against God that is against His word?
And how do we get out of that? We get out of it, but most of the time it says
pray. Just simply pray to God, show me what I'm doing wrong and show me a way out
of it because God says he will not give us any more than we can handle but that
comes along with a price that we have to pay we just cannot step back and say oh
God I know I've done wrong God here we go you have to devote yourself to God and
praying and repenting of your sin is the way that God will get you out of the
belly of the whale. You can call it a belly of a whale. A lot of people refer to
it as the valley that mountains and the valleys were in. But in this sermon I'm
going to take Jonah's example and say in the belly of the whale. And I'm going to
just touch on one thing very quickly and then I'll get to it a little bit more. I
don't know where we all come from in this congregation, but a lot of congregations
have people who have come from the Catholic organization, the Protestant organizations,
the United Organization, whatever other churches that were out there. And the problem
is, if you've been in them any long, you kind of get indoctrinated.

And the problem is Not so much that you get indoctrinated as you keep them.
So when you come into the Sabbath keeping organization, there are a lot of things
that you have to give up, you have to change. And if you don't give those things
up and change and commit yourself to this, this understanding of that we have of
the scriptures, and what we're supposed to do, Sabbath is a good example. You can't
keep Sunday and keep Sabbath. And obey God You can't you just can't you have to
make a choice and you have to go to it if you're switching back and forth You're
not you're not in God's house You're not in God's house You haven't made the
commitment to God to be in his house and and understand what he wants you to do
because You're always saying I know a little bit better Yeah,
I'm wish you wash it. It's good. good way to put it. So let's turn over to
Matthew 12, 38, and 40.

This is the area where Jesus

solidifies the story, really, of Jonah, because he uses this as an example.

And just before what I'm getting into in verse 38. Jesus was having a sparring match with the Pharisees and what they wanted was a sign.

He healed the man, starved, he raised the dead and they still didn't believe him.

And he refers back to their fathers not believing the prophets and what they say all they had to do is go back in the word of Talmud all they had to do is go back and read the history of that and they knew it but he didn't quote listen there's a difference here he didn't quote what the Jewish rabbi is quoted the Jewish rabbis always quoted an older rabbi one that had knowledge one that who understood understood and expanded on the Word of God. And usually that expansion took him off to a side of what it was originally meant to be. So he, Jesus just quoted the Scripture. He said, "That's good enough for me." Because that's the truth. So they were astonished. When people listen to Jesus, they were astonished to that came right from his lips from the Scriptures. So when we get into this story on Matthew 12:38, it says,

"Then a certain scribe and of the Pharisees "as answered, saying, 'Master, we would see a sign from thee.' That's all they were looking for in sight. Not that they were gonna pay attention to it, they were looking for it. But he answered them and said, "And evil and adulterous generations seeketh after a sign, and there shall no sign be given to you but the sign of the prophet of Jonah. For as Jonah was in the three days and three nights in the Wales belly, so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." They had no clue what he was talking about. No clue. Even though it was back in Scripture of that very same prediction, and they didn't understand it. So Jesus moved on.

The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repent it at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, a greater than Jonah is with Thee. And they couldn't see it. They just could not see it. Now

This is really all about us and the sins that we have being in the belly of the whale and How we get out of that whale? How do we get out of that valley that we're in when if we sin and We We really and only do it one way and that's praying to God as I said and Listening to his word what it tells us what we should do Because we have to turn around and go the other way.

We can't continue in the sin so sometimes that's The hardest part is accepting the fact that we know we've sinned that is the hardest part. Once you accomplish that and you want to know where to go, there's a book right here, it tells you where to go. So we want to be very careful that we understand that.

That it's us who makes the first move of realizing that we have sinned.

And

So we have to tell God,

"So what do we tell God?"

We have to tell Him that we want to follow His ways and His instructions. And that is actually about when you say that. So we have to honor our vows. We have to keep on honoring our vows. So we can't just say, "Okay, I'll repent today,

and maybe next week it'll come back and I'll repent again. You have to realize that you can't do that in life. You can do it maybe once and then do it maybe twice, but you can't continue to do it because you're not honoring your vow to God of repentance. And that's really what repentance is. You're vowing to God that you're repenting. And a lot of people didn't understand that in the sign that Jesus gave them. In the following verses 33 and 45,

this is the story, I'll read 43, and when the unclean spirit, let me just see if

I want to go back one more, no, and when the spirit unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

Then he saith, I will return unto my hosts, from whence I have come, and when he comes he findeth empty, and swept and garnished. Then he goeth,

and taketh with him seven other spirits, more wicked than himself and they enter in and dwell there and the last state of that man's is worse than the first.

Even so shall it be also under this wicked generation. Now here's an example of us getting rid of our sins.

When you get rid of a sin, you have to put something back in that spot in your life.

And where you get that film, like you can sweep your hose clean,

but if you don't, you create a vacuum. And what happens when you have a vacuum?

Something comes back into it. You have a vacuum of air, for example, and you take the lid off the vacuum Air comes right back into it. So we have to do the same

look at our sins that same way if We're going to get sin out of our life We have

to replace it with something and that something is the understanding of God's word

But what God wants us to do?

Don't think of the sin. Think of something that God is telling you that's good.

Think of his word. What does his word say? And that comes with study. That comes

with prayer. That comes with attention to what other people are doing. If you have

a particular type, particular sin, and you don't know what to do, then we are told

to bring our sins before our brothers and sisters not not as a whole group but

take one that you can know you can talk to and have understanding with and discuss

it with them and find out maybe they have the answer to which scripture you need

to study so that's that's all part of sweeping your house out and not allowing sin

to come back into it you have to fill it with something in your life to take that

time up, to take up doing things, to take that time off of thinking, take that

time off of studying, and be in with God. You have to do that. There's no really,

no other way of doing it. You just gotta, oh yeah, my sin's gone. Yeah, you know,

Satan, when there's a vacuum, he's gonna pour something into it. So That's the

problem. If we don't have God in our life, we'll have Satan in our life. Because

Satan just loves the terrorist apart. Because we leave God and we get full of sin,

he's one. So we have to be extremely careful in that. We have to keep the Sabbath,

his holy days. So when I was in the to give you,

I think what I think is a good example of the pastor there, and don't take me

wrong, I'm not bedmuling my ex -pastor, but I had several conversations with it,

just two of us, and he was so ingrained because he had come from a Protestant

organization before he came into the Sabbath organization,
And he was so ingrained from that background that he didn't think we had to keep the holy days. I'm surprised he actually kept this habit, but he didn't have to keep the holy days. So we turned around, in my discussions with him, I said, "I'm keeping the holy days whether you keep them or not. It doesn't make any difference to me personally, but I wish you would at least have time to study No, no, no, no, we don't need to study them because we know they're done away with and That got to a ever have a Expression in the crop in your crop your throat that hit that it just it stayed there It stayed there so I had to I come to the point where I had to make a decision of the lever to stay and For my betterment. I said I left I just I just could not stay on that environment because it was always a fight To try to overcome if I was given a sermon I could not Include the holy days. How can you preach all year long and not include something about the holy days? So I'll put it this way. I gave up. I gave up. I gave up trying to convince him that we should honor God with what his word says. And when you can't do that, you have to deal with God on your own footing, not my footing. So I hope this is kind of enlightening you a little bit about the belly of the whale, the idea of being in the valley. Because we all go through valleys. We all go through times when we're in trouble and most of the time it's not intentional it's just where life leads us sometimes you know excuse me we make a wrong decision and we go with it sometimes and we shouldn't .