



Mustard Sermon Discussion Questions - June 27, 2021

Scripture Passages:

Hebrews 11:32-35 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again.

Jonah 1:1-2 The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

Jonah 1:9-10 He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the Lord, because he had already told them so.)

Jonah 1:14-15 Then they cried out to the Lord, “Please, Lord, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, Lord, have done as you pleased.” Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.

Jonah 1:17 Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 2:3-10 “Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them. But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the Lord.’ And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Jonah 3:1 Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

Jonah 3:4-10 “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. When Jonah’s warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.” When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

Jonah 4:1-4 But Jonah was not pleased at all, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, “O, Lord, is this not what I said You would do while still in my own country? That is why I ran away to Tarshish. For I knew that You are a kind and loving God who shows pity. I knew that You are slow to anger and are filled with loving-kindness, always ready to change Your mind and not punish. So now, O Lord, take my life from me. For death is better to me than life.” And the Lord said, “Have you any reason to be angry?”

Jonah 4:9-11 Then God said to Jonah, “Do you have a good reason to be angry about the plant?” And Jonah said, “I have a good reason to be angry, angry enough to die.” The Lord said, “You had loving-pity on the plant which you did not work for. You did not cause it to grow. It came up during the night and died during the night. And should I not have loving-pity for Nineveh, the large city where more than 120,000 people live who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?”

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconcilia-

tion. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

Warm Up:

This week, Pastor Matt is preaching on the story of Jonah. What are the first things that come to mind when you think of Jonah? (Childhood memories, funny stories, Etc.)

Discussion:

1. In the beginning of his message, Pastor Matt asked two questions to lead into his teaching on the story of Jonah.

Have you ever had enough faith, but you didn't act on it? Or, you had plenty of faith, but you didn't want to act like it? If so what was that like?

2. Read Jonah 1:9-15.

What stands out most to you about Jonah? What stands out most about the other men on the boat? Who do you relate to most in this story and why?

3. Excerpt from Pastor Matt:

Jonah, the prophet of God acts completely ungodly. But the people who don't even know God, seem to act way more decent and God-fearing in every way.

How have you seen this in the culture around you? Has interacting with these two types of people ever shaped your relationship with God? If so, how? Has interacting with these two types of people ever shaped your faith? If so, how?

4. Excerpt from Pastor Matt:

Jonah didn't have a faith foundation problem... he had a heart problem. And, it was keeping his faith from affecting his actions.

What other stories in scripture might follow this same pattern? How have you seen this in the lives of people around you? How have you experienced this in your own life?

5. In his message, Pastor Matt said, "Faith is the beginning of God's transforming process for each of us." (Ex. He's moving us from people who trust Him sometimes, to people who trust Him all the time.)

How have you seen faith in God be the beginning of transformation God wanted to do in your own life? How have you seen it be the beginning of transformation in the lives of those around you?

6. Excerpt from Pastor Matt:

Sometimes, the problem, or the hard part, is allowing God to change our hearts so we can act like Him. Sometimes He changes our hearts first... sometimes He tells us to take action and our hearts change later.

Which of these might be more difficult for you—letting God change your heart or taking action before He does? Why? How have you already experienced both of these in your own life?

7. Read Jonah 1-4.

In what ways do you most relate to Jonah? In what ways do you least relate to Jonah? Are there things (or people) in your life you know God wants to transform through you but you don't want Him to? How might reflecting on what God has done in your own life encourage you to act in obedience with those things (or people)?

Next Steps:

8. What might the story of Jonah teach us about God's character? How might perspective on God's character encourage us to act in faith?

Take some time this week to think of what might be keeping you from turning your faith into action. Pick one area of your life where you feel God is calling you to act and write down practical steps to begin doing so.