



Attitudes of Excellence

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Lesson Six: Attitudes Toward Those We Don't Like

Within the Sermon on the Mount, our Lord addressed an aspect of human nature that is illustrated every day—liking those who like you. Jesus said, “If you love those who love you...” (Mt 5:46) and “If you greet only your brothers...” (Mt 5:47). It is within this context that

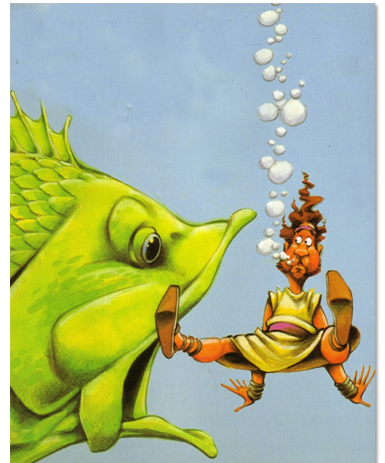
Jesus shows that God sends blessings upon the good and the bad (Mt 5:45). The Lord wants us to “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Mt 5:44).

The fact that there are enemies and those that want to hurt you, it is important to understand the attitude and actions that God wants His people to take.

What are common attitudes people have towards those they do not like?

The Book of Jonah is one of the best places to look at someone who had an attitude problem

- Jonah is one of the _____ prophets: 780 B.C.
- God’s message was for a: _____
- The book of Jonah is more about Jonah, than the message: the people of God can have attitude problems



Chapter 1 P _____ Prophet who Runs _____ God
1. What was Nineveh?

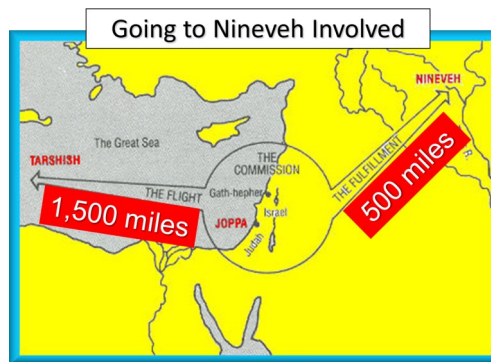
2. Why did Jonah not want to deliver God’s message?

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3. Notice the “greats” in this book:

- 1:2 _____
- 1:4 _____
- 1:12 _____
- 1:17 _____
- 2:5 _____
- 4:1 _____

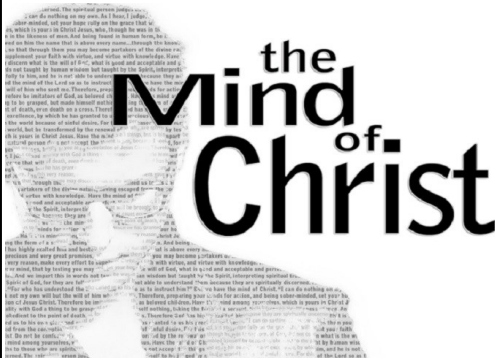
4. What contrasts do you find between Jonah and the sailors?



5. What caused the sailors to be extremely frightened (1:10)?

Practical Lessons from Chapter 1:

If you want to run from God, Satan always has a boat waiting
When you disobey God, things do not get better
When you disobey God, often innocent people get hurt
God doesn't give up on us when we run from Him



Chapter 2

P_____ Prophet who Runs _____ God

This chapter is the prayer of Jonah from inside the fish

- Jonah's prayer contains 23 references to himself
- The fish is the answer to Jonah's prayer
- Jonah understood that God was _____ (2:3,4)

What miracles do you find in the book of Jonah?

Chapter 3

P_____ Prophet who Runs _____ God

- God repeats his commission to Jonah. Nothing changed

What conversions do you find in the book of Jonah?

- Jonah was the _____ to Nineveh (Lk 11:29-30)

Had Jonah obeyed at first, what would have happened?

Chapter 4

P_____ Prophet who runs
_____ of God

- One would think that the book should have ended in chapter 3.
There remains a lesson for Jonah to learn
- The book begins and ends with God talking to Jonah

What three questions does God ask Jonah?

- 4:2—this is the second prayer of Jonah in this book (ch 2—prayer in fear; ch 4— prayer in anger)
- We do not know if Jonah ever changed his attitude
- Anger does not achieve the righteousness of God (Jas 1:20)
At the end of ch 3, Jonah seems to be one of the greatest prophets of all time
In ch 4, Jonah is one of the worst prophets of all time
- Jonah care more about a _____ plant than people made in the _____ of God

Practical Lessons from Chapter 4:

Even in obeying God, our attitudes can be wrong

We can't ignore what God says because we don't feel like doing it

Our attitudes can ruin the good we do



What do I learn about my attitude towards those I do not like?



Chapter 1: Lesson from a boat

Chapter 2: Lesson from the belly of a fish

Chapter 3: Lesson from the city

Chapter 4: Lesson from the hillside

- Jonah cared more about his _____ comfort than the _____ comfort of Nineveh