

Jonah - Part 6

Who Or What Reigns Over Your Soul?

Revised 1-8-2014

After Jonah became angry because the Ninevites had repented, he walked out of the city, made a shelter to protect himself from the hot sun, and fumed! God, in His mercy, made a plant grow to give Jonah shade and make him comfortable. Jonah liked the plant! The next morning God had a worm eat the plant and sent a scorching wind. This made Jonah angry again, and again he wanted to die. He wanted the plant to live but not the Ninevites! He was letting excessive pride come into his thinking! He was making himself miserable again. Ouch! Jonah was letting his old sin nature rule him or reign over his soul! Read Jonah 4:5-11.



Prideful ambition or drive is blind to the needs of others, no matter how critical those needs may be. The needs of the Ninevites were extremely critical! The thinking of the flesh was reigning or ruling over Jonah's soul instead of the thinking of Christ. Pride always brings us back to self-centeredness, boasting in the flesh. Humility, on the other hand, means we obey the sovereignty or rulership of Christ. It means we learn, believe and use His thinking, Bible doctrine. Jonah needed to switch from the sovereignty of his flesh to the sovereignty of Christ!



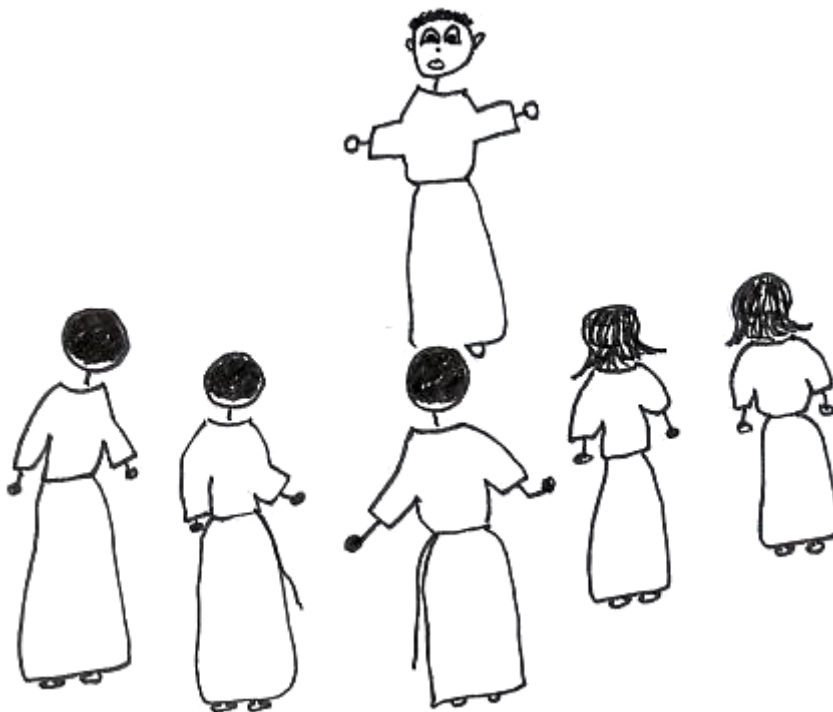
Philippians 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

Only the true Sovereign, Jesus Christ, has the right to reign over your soul. When you became a believer, the Holy Spirit put you in union with Christ. "In Christ" you are under the sovereignty of Christ. The flesh despises the Sovereign Christ and leads the weak back to the sovereignty of sin. The flesh wants to rule you. It wants to dominate you. It wants to control your soul. It desires nothing less. However, as believers, sin no longer reigns over us!!! This is where our volition comes in. We can choose to let the flesh reign or our true Sovereign, Jesus Christ!



Romans 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instrument of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Jonah had a special grace gift from God - to be a prophet. Naturally, he would experience attacks from the kingdom of darkness and his flesh to keep him from using his gift. Each believer has a special grace gift from God. We may not know what it is. However, if we keep learning, believing and using Bible doctrine we will get to the point of using it, whether we know it or not. We will experience attacks to keep us from using our gift. The kingdom of darkness and our flesh know our strengths and our weaknesses. They know where to attack us! When the attacks work, in both Jonah's life and ours, it's because we have taken our eyes off Christ, our Sovereign, and put them on ourselves.



Our true Sovereign will always deliver us when we admit our own helplessness and hopelessness and turn to Him!* We can count on Christ, our true Sovereign! He will never leave us. We may choose to turn away from Him! Bad idea! We need to relax and take responsibility for our thoughts and actions. We will see Jesus Christ, our true Sovereign and Great Shepherd, come through for us! In His grace and mercy, He will deliver us!

*Go to allaboardgodstrain.org and read *Jonah Part 3, What Do You Expect?*



Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.

Job 33:16 Then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction, that **He** may turn man aside from his conduct, and keep man from pride;



Luke 12:34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Grace thinking, knowing that everything comes from God to undeserving man, makes Christ the object. Grace puts our eyes on Jesus Christ, our true Sovereign. It puts our faith in Christ. Our flesh, on the other hand, makes us the object or puts our eyes on ourselves. The flesh has faith in itself! Where's your treasure - your thinking- your faith? If it is in the flesh, then your heart will be with the flesh. If your treasure is in Christ, then your heart will be with Christ. You will have faith in your

true Sovereign, the Lord Jesus Christ!



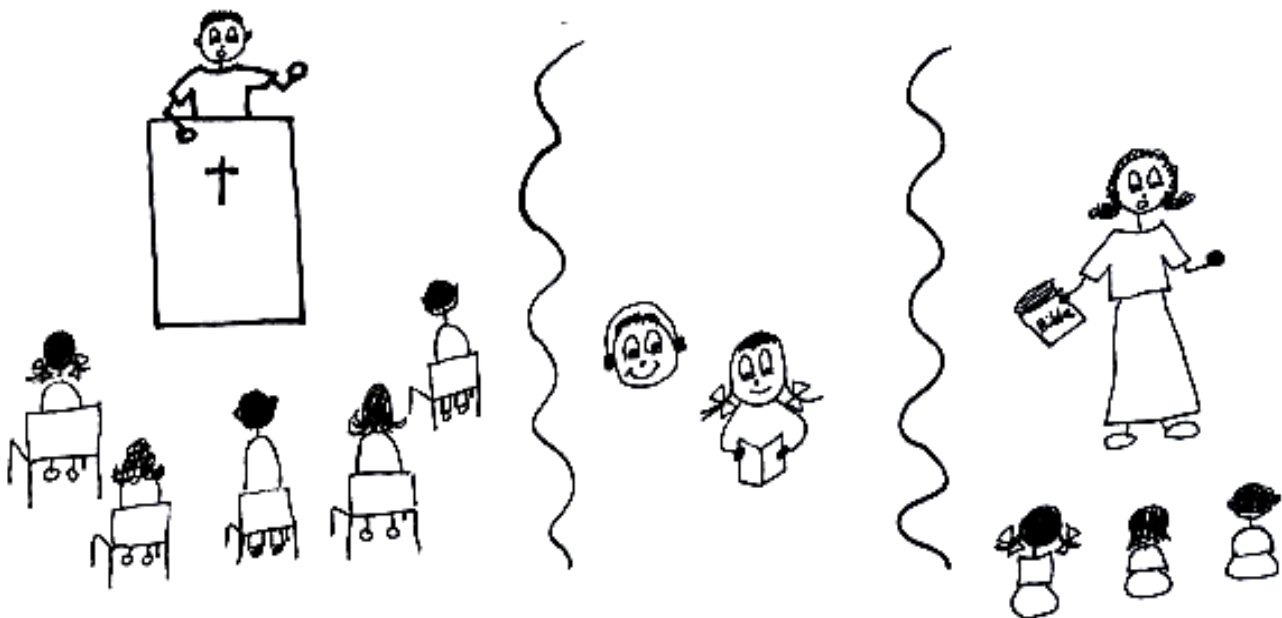
Hebrews 10:38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

Hebrews 10:22 Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.



Using the power of God the Holy Spirit and God's word are the only solutions to pride and arrogance. Therefore, that's the way to recover from self-induced misery! The only reputation we should ever be concerned with is the one we have with our Lord. Jonah didn't need to worry about what his countrymen would think of him. We don't need to worry about what others think of us. If we are in God's plan* for our lives, we can rest assured that we have a good reputation with our Lord. We are in a safe place with our Ruler! Learning, believing and using God's word through the power of the Holy Spirit gives us the solutions to all of our problems! It takes us from our misery to God's grace, mercy and love! **

*Go to allaboardgodstrain.org and read *Whoever Takes the Son GETS IT ALL* and ** *Jonah Part 5, Miserable Because of Pride.*

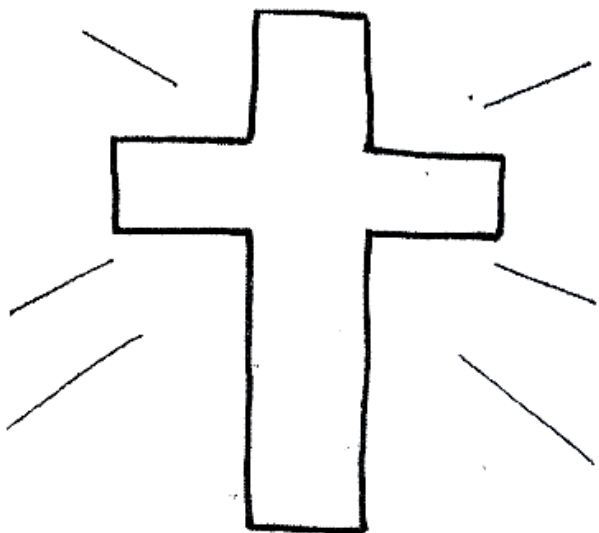


Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding.

Points To Remember

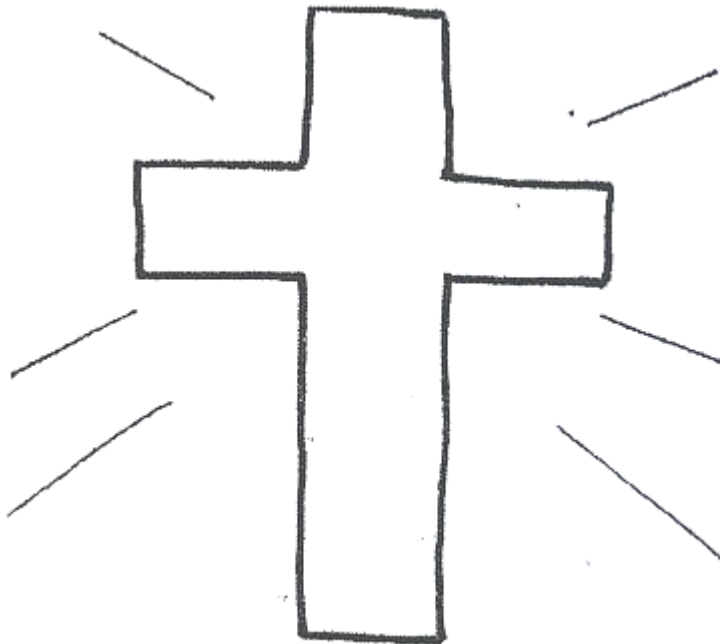
1. After Jonah became angry because the Ninevites had repented, he walked out of the city, made a shelter to protect himself from the hot sun, and fumed!
2. Jonah was letting pride influence his thinking. The thinking of the flesh was reigning or ruling over Jonah's soul instead of the thinking of Christ.
3. Only the true Sovereign, Jesus Christ, has the right to rule over your soul.
4. Jonah had a special grace gift from God to be a prophet. Naturally, he experienced attacks from the kingdom of darkness and his flesh to keep him from using his gift.
5. Our true Sovereign will always deliver us when we admit our own helplessness and hopelessness and turn to Him.
6. Grace thinking, knowing that everything comes from God to undeserving man, makes Christ the object.

7. The power of God the Holy Spirit and God's word found in the bible are the only solutions to pride and arrogance.



Questions For Discussion

1. Why did Jonah angrily walk out of the city of Nineveh?
2. What did he do outside the city? What did God do for him?
3. What was Jonah letting rule his soul? How did this make him miserable?
4. Who needs to be the ruler of our souls? How will this make us content?
5. How does the cosmic system and our old sin nature try to stop us from using our spiritual gift? Do we always know what our spiritual gift is?
6. How do we make Jesus Christ the object of our thinking?
7. Why is it important to make Him the object of our thinking?
8. What is the solution to pride and arrogance?



MORE PRECIOUS THAN SILVER

LORD YOU ARE MORE PRECIOUS THAN SILVER
LORD YOU ARE MORE COSTLY THAN GOLD
LORD YOU ARE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN DIAMONDS
AND NOTHING I DESIRE COMPARES WITH YOU

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LORD YOU ARE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN DIAMONDS
AND NOTHING I DESIRE COMPARES WITH YOU

IN YOUR TIME IN YOUR TIME
YOU MAKE ALL THINGS BEAUTIFUL IN YOUR TIME
LORD MY LIFE TO YOU I BRING
MAY EACH SONG I HAVE TO SING
BE TO YOU A LOVELY THING
IN YOUR TIME

LORD MY LIFE TO YOU I BRING
MAY EACH SONG I HAVE TO SING
BE TO YOU A LOVELY THING
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AND NOTHING I DESIRE COMPARES WITH YOU
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JONAH
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SOVEREIGN
WORM

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References: Eusebeia Bible Church

Pastor Ed Collins

www.eusebeia.org

Lessons: 2 - 1,2,3,9 - 2011

Philippians 3:7-10 But whatever things were gain to me [Paul], those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that , I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;