

“Walking by Faith”
Jonah – The humility of faith

Lessons in humility from the story of Jonah:

1. We need the humility of a changed life, not simply the right words

The sailors “greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.” (1:16)

The Ninevite king: “Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.” (3:8)

Jonah: “I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the Lord.’” (2:9)

2. We need the humility to accept that only God’s power & grace saves lives

“When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented & did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.” (3:10)

3. We need the humility to accept that God is God & His ways are right & good

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord, ‘Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.’

But the Lord replied, ‘Is it right for you to be angry?’ (4:1-4)

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Digging Deeper questions for small groups & personal reflection

Lessons in humility from the story of Jonah:

1. The humility of a changed life, not simply the right words

In what ways can we sometimes use the correct ‘language’ in the Christian life, but without a heart and life change?

Are we surprised that in this story, Jonah, the Jewish prophet, was less repentant before God than the pagan sailors and the people of Ninevah?

Why is humility crucial in repentance?

2. The humility to accept that only God’s power & grace saves lives

How does the story of Jonah remind us that it’s God’s power & grace that saves lives, not us?

So, is it important for us to pray for the lost, seek opportunities to witness, and live holy lives, or does it not matter?

3. The humility to accept that God is God & His ways are right & good

Have you ever been angry with God because you thought something he’d done “seemed very wrong” like Jonah (4:1)?

What journey was God taking you on through this, & where did you get to?

How can we grow in humility towards God, accepting Him as the One who knows best? How do we still grapple with God at the same time as trusting Him?