

Difficult Questions For Jonah

(Jonah 1:4-12)

- Introduction:
1. The book of Jonah is much more than a book about a “great fish,” but is rather about a “great God” and principles to be gleaned from our relationship with this great God.
 2. Let’s examine several difficult questions asked in this book.

I. "What Do You Mean, Oh Sleeper"

- A. The sailors onboard this ship could not believe that Jonah was sleeping when their life was being threatened.
- B. Their question is one of astonishment: "How can you sleep at a time like this?"
- C. We too, need to be asked the same question.
 1. Have we been asleep to our obligations (1 Corinthians 15:34); our opportunities (Ephesians 5:14); our enemy (1 Peter 5:8); our Lord's return (Matthew 25:13)?

II. "For Whose Cause?"

- A. This question was also asked by the sailors.
- B. They wanted to know who was to blame for their misfortune.
- C. Personal accountability and responsibility are the first steps to reconciliation with God.
- D. (Genesis 3:8-13; 2 Samuel 12:7).

III. "What Is Your Occupation?"

- A. This must have been a very embarrassing question for Jonah.
- B. This prophet of God was caught running from God.
- C. Could we also be guilty of running from God, failing to fulfill our occupation?
 1. Preachers (2 Tim. 4:1-4); Elders (1 Peter 5:1-2); Parents (Ephesians 6:1-4).

IV. "Why Have You Done This?"

- A. These sailors were upset with Jonah and his actions because of the way they were being affected.
- B. Jonah's disobedience was not a private matter that just affected him.
- C. When we disobey God, we hurt:
 1. The lost (Rom. 6:23); the saved (Eph. 5:25); and our family (Mt. 18:6-7).

V. "What Shall We Do With You?"

- A. There was an accounting that Jonah had to give to these sailors.
- B. Likewise, there will be a day of accounting that we must give before God.
- C. (Acts 17:30-31; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; John 5:28-29).

- Conclusion:
1. These must have been hard questions for Jonah to answer.
 2. But more importantly today, how hard are they to answer if they were asked of you?