

## You Just Had to Ask

(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. (Jonah 1:6).
- B. The Captain onboard this ship could not believe that Jonah was sleeping when their life was being threatened.
- C. Their question is one of astonishment: "How can you sleep at a time like this?"
- D. 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. (Jonah 1:8).
- B. This question was asked by the sailors.
- C. They wanted to know who was to blame for their misfortune.
- D. Personal accountability is the first step to reconciliation with God.
- E. (Genesis 3:8-13; 2 Samuel 12:7; 1 Chronicles 15:15).

### III. "What Is Your Occupation?"

- A. (Jonah 1:8).
- B. This must have been a very embarrassing question for Jonah.
- C. This prophet of God was caught running from God.
- D. 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. (Jonah 1:10).
- B. These sailors were upset with Jonah and his actions because of the way they were being affected.
- C. Jonah's disobedience was not a private matter that just affected him.
- D. 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. (Jonah 1:10).
- B. There was an accounting that Jonah had to give to these sailors.
- C. Likewise, there will be a day of accounting that we must give before God.
- D. (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?