

Sunday, February 04, 2018
Union Baptist Church, Wilmington
Reverend LaBarron F. McAdoo, Sr.
Series: Balance of Your Work, Worship, and Witness
Sermon: The Jonah Syndrome - Lessons and Observation from a Hostile Witness

Are you a hostile witness?

Jonah 1:1-16 - (KJV) 1 Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. 3 But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. 4 But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken. 5 Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep. 6 So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not. 7 And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. 8 Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou? 9 And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land. 10 Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him. Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. 11 Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous. 12 And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you. 13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them. 14 Wherefore they cried unto the Lord, and said, We beseech thee, O Lord, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O Lord, hast done as it pleased thee. 15 So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging. 16 Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, and made vows.

Intro: This passage serves to give a working knowledge of the concept of worship, work, and witness.

- Worship - giving Worth to something; basically doing what is pleasing to God and that “doing “ neither “worth it” because of God.
- Work - the attempting and accomplishment of the anointed assignment given. Your work is doing what God says do and putting Worth with it.
- Witness - what others get from observing (hearing and seeing) us do what we do.

As holy as a prophet as he was, he had holy and hostile together. A hostile witness is someone you must subpoena and make them come to court.

1. Anointed Assignment - None of us are anointing just to show up. You are empowered to performed. He doesn't assign the assignment based on what appeals to you. He didn't ask Jonah about his feelings regarding the assignment. We need to grow up and change our feelings and not the assignment. In the assignment, God never assigns what you are unable to perform. V. 1 & 2. When assignments are give

2. Alterations to a Divine Command - you get a but. When a but was given to God, God gave a but too. The violence of Nineveh came as a carry over of the unholy activity. It was full of lies and deceit, whoredoms, witchcraft, drunkenness, and wickedness. God brought us out so that we might have a message for those who are stuck in. Jonah's theology was that outside of your purpose is outside of God's presence. He got with them to flee from Him. God is not speaking to him but everything around him. V. 3 & 4

1. They were afraid and Jonah were asleep. They had more fear of God than Jonah. Some of us thing we are so friendly with a Him that we don't have fear. Everybody was praying but the preacher. When you are hostile, He puts you in a hostile environment. V. 5

1. They made him wake up and asked who he was and his occupation. V. 8. Jonah was made a hostile witness and testified about his God that made the sea and dry land. V. 9 They became increasingly afraid. V. 10

3. Acceptance and Alterations - We either accept it as said or make alterations and do it is appealing to us.

1. Alignments v. 5-16

2. Anointed Adjustments

1. Storm - stopped the boat from going the wrong way. V. 5

2. Sailors - prayed to their gods and tried to address the problem. V. 5

1. Jonah told them that they had to put him out to get out of it. V. 12

2. They wanted to make sure that throwing him out was not offensive to God. They prayed to Jonah's God. Sometimes, you got to get some folks off your ship. V. 13 - 15

3. They worshipped Jonah's God. V. 16

God has a system to handle our hostility