

God's Calling Requirements Part 62

From the Life of Jonah Part 4

God will continue to deal with your bad attitude

"1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry. 2 And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil. 3 Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live. 4 Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry? 5 So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city. 6 And the LORD God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd. 7 But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered. 8 And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live. 9 And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death. 10 Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: 11 And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?" (Jonah 4:1-11 KJV)

"1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry." (Jonah 4:1 KJV) Why Jonah was exceedingly displeased? Most likely because the Lord did not overthrow the city of Nineveh; Jonah was waiting for God to act with judgment on them. That is a strange attitude that after he preached to them he was displeased with the mercy of God on them. We read in **Jonah 3** that the Lord repented from the evil that he want to sent when He saw the work of the people and they turned from their evil way, **"10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not."** (Jonah 3:10 KJV) God followed His Word, that He will have mercy on those who repent.

So Jonah most likely was displeased with the mercy of God that He showed to the people of Nineveh. Why Jonah did not expect that God will have mercy on them? Jonah preached to them the following message: **"4 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown."** (Jonah 3:4 KJV) Was Jonah not aware when he was preaching to them and warning them that they might repent? Jonah preached to them the message after he was forced by God to go to them. So Jonah went just to please God and to fulfill his vow to God and to escape any further judgment and discipline from God. Most likely he did not move to them to preach to them the gospel because he has

compassion on them, love for them, or out of faith, but he was just forced to do so. That is why after he preached the message, he was not expected them to repent, but he was just waiting for the judgment of God to come on them.

Are you having such wrong attitude that you go to serve God just because you are forced and you go to preach without faith and without compassion? Time for you to repent of such and to humble down before God and before His Word so you can understand in a better way what is going on in the mind of God.

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly: Jonah was expecting God's judgment to come on Nineveh even after he preached to them God's Word, and when that did not happen he was exceedingly displeased. Now here again the wrong attitude of the worker is in contradiction to the intention of God for the salvation of human kind. Here Jonah gave vent to his displeasure and he gave no consideration that the people of Nineveh might repent from their sins. Here he was so judgmental in his attitude toward the people that God asked of him to reach out. So the judgmental attitude of Jonah had come because of his lack of compassion on the people and his lack of faith that the message of God can change the people.

Jonah, his judgmental attitude it could be also because of his hatred to the people of Nineveh who invaded the land of Israel. That is why God put him under such a test in order to correct his wrong attitude and in order to let him understand better the will of God and His love for all the human mankind. **In the same way God may put you under such kind discipline and ask you to do such ministry, to go and preach to your enemy because He wants to cleanse you from such a judgment attitude and wrong behaviours and non forgiveness.**

and he was very angry: Jonah was angry because God saved the people of Nineveh and did not bring His judgment on them. Anger is one of the bad attitude, and a foot hold of the devil in the life of the workers who serve God. Anger does not bring the righteous life that God wants you to live. Because anger may leads you to do sin. Jonah was angry with God because He did not destroy the people of Nineveh because they invaded Israel and Jonah directed such anger against God and expressed it when he refused to go to the mission work that God was sending him to do. **Are you doing the same with God, that because God did not do what you want then you are running away from serving Him and not going forth to reach out your enemy with the Gospel of Jesus and the Word of God? If yes then repent from such anger and bad attitude toward God and toward your enemy.**

Jesus said, **"44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"** (Matthew 5:44 KJV) **"27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,"** (Luke 6:27 KJV) Here Jonah was put into that mission in order to be taught to love his enemy, to have compassion on his enemy, to bless his enemy who cursed him and to do good to them.

But I say unto you, Love your enemies: **Have a love attitude toward those who were harmful to you and do what you can in order for them to be saved.**

bless them that curse you: Those who curse you with their mouth, that curse will not come true unless there is a foothold for that in your life. But for you let your attitude toward them is to bless them and wish them to repent of such and to repent of their sins and that God shall do miracles in their lives so they will repent and start to know God.

do good to them that hate you: You are called to do good things to those who hate you. That possibly will be the way for them to change their mind toward you.

and pray for them which spitefully use you, and persecute you: Pray for those, who just for their own benefits use you, but later on throw you away and started to persecute you after you are done from serving them.

Here the prayer of Jonah shown that what was inside him, **“2 And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.”** (Jonah 4:2 KJV) Here Jonah prayer was in the opposite direction of God. Jonah said to God, that he did not need to go to that mission because he knew that God will not judge them and finally he will be kind to them, that is why out of his anger and out of his frustration with God he run away to Tarshish.

Jonah said to God, **“for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.”** (Jonah 4:2 KJV) As if here Jonah is saying to God, you are gracious, merciful, kind and slow to anger with the bad people, but you are angry only to me. Many workers or may be you, speaking such with God; for others you are not punishing them, even if they will do big sin, but for me only small sin you are very angry to me. * Put in your mind that God would treat the non believers who are dead in their sin in such a way in order to show them His love and bring them into repentance. But for your case, you are His son, and He discipline you so that you will not perish by your sin.

“2 And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.” (Jonah 4:2 KJV) Here in verse 2 it clearly shown that Jonah was not happy that the people of Nineveh got saved. Some people are sad to see other people who repent and believe in God and join the church. It is their selfishness, lack of love and wrong understanding about God. Put in your mind that the non believers are created by God and He love them, He wants them to be saved, and He wants you to work with them in order to reach them.

“3 Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.” (Jonah 4:3 KJV) See here the selfishness and the wrong attitude of Jonah. In the midst of the mission of God, he should sit down and pray and intercede to God to save the people and that they will respond to the message, but here Jonah was asking God to take his life. Very sarcastic person Jonah is, but don't be

amazed many disciples of Jesus are like that, but don't be among them; for there are workers like that behaving in a very immature way, showing their emotion, carelessness about the mission of God while God is reaching people to save them. Instead they need to behave, agree with God and go along His heart and His mission to save the lost.

“3 Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.” (Jonah 4:3 KJV) Such bad attitude is over confidence and abuse of the goodness of God in their lives. Jonah as if he forgot his lesson when he was in the belly of the great fish. Don't forget your lesson and what God had allowed you to pass through of trials in order to discipline you. God may put you into another session if you go back to your bad attitude.

“4 Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry?” (Jonah 4:4 KJV) God rebuked Jonah again for his bad attitude. The Lord may rebuke you in the same way in order to correct you and make you awake of what is going on and finally to comply with God and with His will.

“5 So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city.” (Jonah 4:5 KJV) Jonah resented to such a rebuke, and the more become angry because now he knew that God will not consider what is in his mind. Jonah was also angry now because God forced him to go to Nineveh. What Jonah did and how he resented the rebuke of God? He went out of the city, **“5 So Jonah went out of the city,”** as if Jonah was telling to God, *‘I am leaving, you don't like to listen to me, do it by yourself. I am leaving the church, I will not attend,’* Many workers out of their anger and arrogance they will just throw away their ministry and go ahead away from God and the church. Don't be among such workers and don't behave arrogantly with God, the Lord is able to deal with you if you behave in such bad attitude.

“5 So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city.” (Jonah 4:5 KJV) Jonah went out from the presence of God outside the city and he made his own booth and sat under it to avoid the heat of the sun while he was waiting what will be the outcome of the city, and if God will be going to overthrow it. As if he is telling God, I am giving the last chance to you to overthrow the city, and I will be not entering in it again. Jonah was in anger and in grief because God did not punish the non believers the people of Nineveh for what they did with the Israelites.

“6 And the LORD God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd.” (Jonah 4:6 KJV) Since Jonah now was near to the place that God wanted him to be, and since he did not run away, the Lord worked it out to comfort him and to relief him of his grief. God allowed a gourd and made it come up over Jonah to give a shadow over his head so he will be delivered from his grief. Indeed Jonah was comforted with the gourd that protected his head from the heat of the sun, but still he did not go back to the city. God will do the same for you when you are in grief that he will come and comfort you by one way or another, but you should obey God and do what He is asking you to do.

“7 But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered.” (Jonah 4:7 KJV) Here God proceed to teach Jonah another lesson since he did not consider to go along with God when God showed him mercy and comforted him. Since Jonah did not enter the city God prepared a worm in the morning to smite the gourd and made it die. God will create events by His own discretion and in programmed scenario to serve His purpose as we can read here, ***“8 And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.” (Jonah 4:8 KJV)*** Here God brought the sun as a source of discomfort over the head of Jonah in order to make him realize his wrong doings in what his bad attitude of anger and unforgiveness is dictating on him in order to bring him to repentance. Jonah again went ahead with his tantrum, ***“It is better for me to die than to live.”*** The same of what read previously in verse 3, ***“O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.” (Jonah 4:3 KJV)*** Not only Jonah but many other workers they have the same tantrum, and speak the same with God and they wish to die because God is forcing them to stay where He wants them to be. They wish to die in their disobedience, *‘take my life Lord, I don’t want to live, I don’t like to be here, I don’t like this life, etc.’*, but they are not aware that they will be end up in hell. Repent of your sins, repent of your anger and repent of such tantrum and behave in God’s presence.

“9 And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death.” (Jonah 4:9 KJV) Again God is explaining gently the situation with his worker, the prophet, but Jonah still the same with his tantrum and non willingness to comply with God’s will and purpose. But the gracious God explained to him further the purpose of God in human kind and He began with Jonah himself by telling him, ***“10 Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night:” (Jonah 4:10 KJV)*** God told Jonah that you are concerned with the gourd that you did not plant or labor or made it grow. God was telling him you are mindful about these small things because it is pertain to you, but you are not mindful with the things of God. *The same message is for each and every one of us, that we should not be selfish and only be mindful of our own benefits but as well as the things of God and Christ.*

“11 And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?” (Jonah 4:11 KJV) God explained to Jonah that if he is concerned about the gourd which is given by God, how much God need to be concerned and spare and save Nineveh the great city with one hundred and twenty thousand people who are not aware of what Jonah was aware of God, His Word, His will, and His plan of salvation. God told Jonah, ***and also much cattle.*** As if He was telling Jonah with a worm that I sent you were discomforted how much more I can use the much cattle of Nineveh for my own purpose.

As God faced Jonah, now God is facing each and every one of us face to face, if we are mindful about our small things; work, mobile, watch, food, dress, etc., and are not more mindful of the people who are around us and they don’t know God; shall we now not be concerned to behave and fix ourselves and work with God in order to reach the lost around us?

My Dear and Beloved: What we learn from the above story, that we should not be careless people, selfish, irresponsible and non willing to understand and go along what God is asking us to do in fulfilling His plan of salvation for the whole human kind. We should not allow our anger and non forgiveness to prevail and hinder us from serving God. God wants us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, to bless those who curse us and to pray for those who abuse us and persecute us.

Let us understand from the events that God allow in our lives that He is moving us to understand His love toward those who are perishing and those who do not know Him and He need us to go along with Him to reach them out with the message and to love them and to love that God would save them, to have faith in God and have compassion toward them and pray earnestly to God to save them.

Therefore, let us commit our lives while we still have strength to bear and persevere, and work with God to reach the lost in order for them to know God, to know Christ, the Word of God, the salvation of God and His will in their lives. Let us pray . . .

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died for my sins on the cross and rose from the dead to give me eternal life.

Confess your sins now to the Lord _____. Confess your anger, you non forgiveness, your carelessness, your self-righteousness, and your selfishness. Renounce your tantrum and your misbehaviors with God. Be willing to repent of all these wrong attitude and be willing to go along God and what is in His mind of love and compassion toward the lost.

Lord I put myself into your hand, I am willing to go along your plan of salvation to the whole mankind and I am willing to go and serve you and be in the place that you want me to be.

Lord I pray for my Brethren who repented from their bad character and attitudes, Lord use them to serve you and to go and evangelize and reach new people and be in the places that you want them to be. Lord I pray that they will submit themselves fully to you and start to reproduce the fruit of repentance and the Holy Spirit that they will be full of love, mercy and compassion towards the lost souls.

Lord we commit ourselves as a church to go and do the mission work that you wants us to do. Lord refill us with the Holy Ghost and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in your ministry to go and preach the gospel and evangelize and reach the lost and make new disciples. Lord protects us and provides for us and enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with

us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

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