

The Prodigal Preacher

(Incomplete Obedience Part 9)

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**THE LORD'S FLOCK
GROW DIGEST**

Techie M. Rodriguez
Elder-Founder

There are lessons whenever God admonishes us. The prophet Jonah ran away in his attempt to hide from God (Jonah 1). However, there is no way to hide from God, He knows where we are at all times, physically and spiritually. God calls us to a purpose. When we fail to answer God's call, we jeopardize not only our life, but also the life of the church.

1. Jonah ran away from God and refused His command to go to Nineveh to preach. He threatened not just his life but also the lives of the other people in the boat.
2. Jonah reluctantly obeyed God. He saw God's mercy, the Lord still saved him despite his disobedience. Jonah praised God for three days while in the belly of the big fish. Yet, he became angry because the Lord showed mercy to the sinners of Nineveh.
 - ❖ Let us pray for our enemies and return evil with good (Rom.12:21). Let our silence win their hearts. When we have faith, every time we have persecutions, tribulations, there will be something beautiful in the end.
3. Jonah promised he will run to the Lord. He tried to justify his disobedience. He hated God's enemies; he believed they deserved the fires of hell.
4. Jonah prayed to the Lord.
 - ❖ When God forgives our sins, He does not remember anymore. We can never forgive without the grace of God. God does not delay His promises (1Pt. 3).
5. Jonah asked God to slay him, he wanted to die. God patiently waited for Jonah (Jonah 4:3). He invited Jonah to consider his bad attitude.
 - ❖ Let us be cautious, we are easy prey to the devil. "Be angry but do not sin" (Eph. 4:26).

6. God challenged Jonah's perception. God was pleased that many in Nineveh repented. But Jonah was still upset.
 - ❖ God compels us to make disciples and to take care of those who are lost. Just like Nineveh, the world today is sinning. God wants to show what grace could do.
7. Jonah's strike. He stayed outside the city. He could have preached to the people who repented. But he separated from the people because he wanted them to be punished.
8. God teaches Jonah a lesson. It was hot in the desert, so God provided a plant for Jonah's comfort. The plant sprouted fast and Jonah was happy. But, the Lord giveth and taketh away. Hungry worms arrived and ate the plant.
9. God produced the conversation in Nineveh. "I have come that they may have life . . ." (Jn 10:10).
 - ❖ We need to be God's proxy to bring people to the Lord. God does not stop seeking the lost. Let us ask for the grace of God to rise above inconveniences to help others. He invites us to respond.

Conclusion: The Lord wants us to obey Him completely, without reservations.

Reflection: Are you running away from God? Are you running away from your responsibilities? How will you show compassion to those who are lost?

Prayer: I pray that I may be used according to your purpose, to render my service in the community where you have placed me, so that you may be edified and glorified.