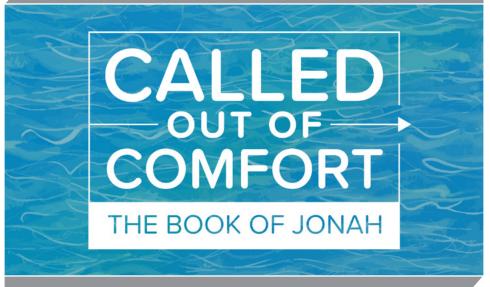


CURRENT SERMON SERIES:



October 8, 2023

Why Obstacles?

But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish." And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. (Jonah 1:4-7)

SERMON NOTES: _____

NOTES: _____

Obstacles. We experience them and question, "Why now?" We hope they quickly go away.

God has designed obstacles to get our attention. He wants to keep us on course with him. He wants to use obstacles to bring us back into fellowship with Himself and others.

We view obstacles as bad and annoying. These untimed "thorns in our side" that bring discomfort.

God loved Jonah as much as Nineveh. And when Jonah got off course, God was going to bring obstacles into his life to bring him back.

I. Yahweh is in _____ even when you are out of control ["But the Lord..."], Jonah 1:4.

- II. Yahweh is still in control even when we made a _____, Jonah 1:4-6; 2 Samuel 12:1.
 - A. My decisions ______ beyond me ["I'm not hurting anyone."].
 - B. My decisions have lasting ______.
- III. Yahweh is providing an _____, Jonah 1:5-17.

A. _____ on deck, Jonah 1:5 [mariners were afraid].

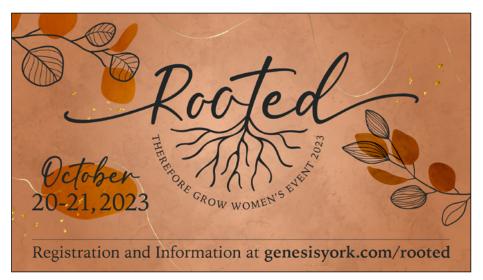
- B. _____ inside, Jonah 1:5 [separated, "pulled the blinds," slept].
- C. _____ to get up, "arise, Jonah 1:6 [cp Jonah 1:2 & 3:2].
- D. _____ lots to see who the problem person is, Jonah 1:7.
- E. _____, Jonah 1:9.
- F. _____, Jonah 1:10 ["How could you!], cp. Genesis 12:10-20 & 20:1-18.
- G. _____ were out of control [BUT, remember who is NOT out of control-God], Jonah 1:12, 15.
- H. _____ by a big fish, squalus carcharias, Jonah 1:17.



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