

# Lord of Life Ministries

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## THE WHALE

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We are going to get into a subject today that possibly some of you have heard in the past. Many, many years ago, the Lord had us minister on the whale. So we are going to be ministering on the whale today. It will be very interesting. Some of you will remember the book Moby Dick and this ties in with that story. God does work in strange ways.

Last week I was standing in the back listening as the Lord used Luther to minister on death and resurrection. He was ministering on the cross and resurrection and life. Toward the end of the teaching, all of the sudden, I saw this whale come upon the shore and he died. Saw some people come along and take this big heavy duty whale and begin to cut it up. There was so much blubber. We are to get into the blubber and the oil and explain the significance to you. I said okay God why are you flashing the whale on the shore to me? And what is it that you want me to follow up on? He began to bring to my mind an experience that we had in understanding the whale. It was several years ago and I had forgotten about it. God gives us so much but our mind has a tendency to forget. The Holy Spirit can always refresh our memory.

The Lord speaks to us through animals; he speaks to us in many different ways and through anything and everything that he has created. Everything that God has created is a substance of Himself. All creatures are a substance of God. Fish have always been interesting to me. I can remember when I was a child my father used to take me fishing. I was so afraid of the water because I couldn't swim. We didn't have a pool but just a big lake. I remember my father taking me out in his tiny boat. We would sit there all day holding a fishing pole. I thought it was the dumbest thing to sit there and wait for a silly little fish to come along and bite. I would wonder. Why is my father taking me fishing? He made a point to take me and my brothers fishing. When we went fishing, I remember saying little prayers to Jesus, asking to help me catch a fish. Actually I was proud if I got one little bite. My daddy would put a sinker on the line. We used bamboo poles. I couldn't stand the worms that we used for bait. Fish like worms. Every one of you in this room are like fish and sometimes you get wormy. The worm represents the flesh. It is nothing but the carnality in man's mind, which is the fleshy appetites.

My daddy would take me with him to find worms. I couldn't stand to touch those slimy little things, eek? Now a worm lives in the earth and it is like a lot of people today. They live in the carnal mind. They don't live in a heavenly state but they live in a carnal state; not in the spiritual state but in the earthly state or realm. They want to live in the world and are caught up in the cares of this world. They do not understand that they are spiritual beings and are to follow Jesus Christ. They want to be worldly and be like everybody else. You were out there lost in the sea, totally lost. Out in the sea there is every kind of fish. Have you ever been snorkeling? That is a very interesting experience to have. You can go down under the water and see so many different kinds of fish. There are big ones and little ones and fish of all different colors. The sight of all the beautiful and colorful fish is absolutely wonderful; it is out of this world. You look at them and say - God only you could have created these fish. God has made every fish in the sea uniquely different. You are the fish that God caught one day when you were out in the sea; which is out in the world and you didn't think of God. You didn't know God

and you only talked to Him when you had a problem. Then one day God sent His hook and caught you. God knows just how to do that. He knows how to hook you good. You had been like the fish in the sea. It is not easy to catch a fish. I learned one thing, when I was little, and it was that if I didn't have the right bait, I was not going to catch a fish. I used to squeeze two or three worms on that hook thinking the better to woo the fish. I would set there in the boat with my father – just waiting for the cork to bob because he told me that when the cork started bobbing it meant there was a fish ready to be caught. That is how God's people are. God will put out His nourishment; His food, and we just nibble a bit but at first we do not want to get hooked. That is how a lot of Christians are. They go to church and they nibble a little bit and they don't want to get deeply rooted in God. They still want to stay in the sea. Remember, the sea is the world. The sea is carnality and the cares of this world. You know that if God gets His hook in you, what follows is, you become a disciple of Christ. But as long as you just nibble a bit on Sunday and then go out six days a week and be worldly and repeat that each week, you are not allowing God to be first in your life. There are some people who do not want God to take over. When God really does hook you, He gets that hook in your jaw. Just like a fish, when God finally does hook you, you do your best to get off the hook and get back in the water. A fish knows when he comes out of the water he will

die. He knows as soon as that hook gets in him. Fear grips him and he does everything he can to get away. He has to fight. He liked the food but he did not get a chance to swallow it, as the hook had gotten him. Mat 13:47 *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: 13:48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.*

When you catch a fish and you pull him out of the water, he flip-flops as long as he has life. Then that fish dies and you can eat it. When you die, people come and eat. They come and partake of Christ. They feed off of the Christ. So God has to pull you out of the water. The water is our own understanding. The sea is a representation of humanity and human thoughts. It is the waters of the sea; of the tossing and turning, the restlessness. Have you ever watched the ocean waves? The waves come in and go out and never rest. The sea stirs up the miry clay. James 1:6, *But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 1:7, For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

Man is restless just like the sea. As long as he is in the sea, he will always be restless. He will never find rest for his soul as long as he is in the sea of his own understanding. He will be restless as long as he lives in his soul, because the soul is the waters of human thoughts. God began to show us that the soul is

like the whale. In fact, that is the sea monster. Man is the sea monster. You kids have seen movies or read stories about sea monsters. You may even have gone out in the water and hoped you would see a sea monster or you were afraid one would get you. You didn't realize that you were a sea monster yourself. That might surprise you. Without God, man has that beastly nature; the nature to kill, to rob, to hate, to be greedy or jealous. Until God changes that nature into the Christ nature, he will be beastly. So God began to show us that people, who want to stay in the sea, are like Jonah. Now Jonah knew God. If you look at the scriptures you will see why he rebelled. He said, God I know I did not have to do it. I did not have to do what you told me to do because I knew you would forgive me. It is right there in the scriptures. Jonah 4:2, *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* I knew you would show me your grace. I knew that you would be merciful and kind; so that is why I just didn't obey. What he did not know was that he was going into the belly of the whale. He had no idea that because of his rebellion he was going to end up in the belly of the whale. When you disobey the Lord and rebel against the voice of the Lord you just created your own hell without realizing it. How do we disobey God? We disobey God when we do not

praise him in everything and do His will. The scripture says, *In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.* I Thes. 5:18

In life, we go through various trials and testings and various experiences but God says, in it, give thanks and that is a hard one. When you are not giving thanks, you are rebelling. If you do not give thanks you go into hell in your mind. If we go by the principle of giving thanks we will be walking in Christ and obeying His Word. The Lord spoke to us some time ago and said that we are getting ready to go into a transition. Remember, Jesus told his disciples that he was getting ready to go into another realm. He sat and talked to them and told them over and over again that he was getting ready to go into another realm. He said except a grain of wheat fall to the ground and dies it abides alone. He was saying, I have to die in order to go into this transition. There was a place that he came to and I do believe that this is the place where God has us. He is requiring more of those who have knowledge and understanding. He only requires of you of what you know and understand. Jesus knew that He was going into a higher realm. He was walking in a realm of ministry for three years. But he knew that there was a realm beyond that. He knew that the next realm was the eternal realm. He knew that it was going to be the same realm that He was in with the Father before the foundation of the earth. He knew that in that realm there was a greater glory. He knew that when He went into that realm,

there would not be just one son. He knew there would be a many membered body of which He would be the Head. He would be able to enter into man's mind. He would embody Himself in many people all over the world. If He remained where He was, He could not do that. He knew that if He died to everything and gave up everything He would go into the next realm. He was going to give up His whole self. He said - *Father if it be possible, let this cup pass from me, but nevertheless, not what I will but as you will.* Matt. 26:39, He knew the suffering that He would have to endure on the cross, but also knew it was just for a moment. When Jesus was dead, that is when He was removed from the cross. You walk in resurrection life now, but God is getting ready to cause us to walk in the fullness of His resurrection, and His life. Paul said - I die daily. You also die daily; your cross is denying self. Pick up your cross daily and deny self. Sometimes it is to deny what you think whether you are right or wrong. It is a sacrifice to deny your will. Sometimes you may think - oh it is a sacrificed life to pick up your cross daily and deny self and follow Jesus. But God said - Joyce the time is coming very soon ( in His appointed time) that there will be those who have really come all the way and have followed Christ and will come to the place where you won't have to die daily because when you are dead (to your own will) there is nothing else to die to. Do you understand what I am saying? When God has consumed everything in you that is not like Christ there is

nothing left to die to. The more you allow Him to consume in you and to change you, finally, there will be nothing left to burn by His fire. Mat 16:24, *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

Now one thing about the whale is that it is the largest fish in the sea. It is full of fat; blubber. It is a representation of the soul of mankind feeding on the lust of the flesh and feeding on the belly, the appetites of the flesh. Phi 3:18, *(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 3:19, Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)* God caused Jonah to go into the belly of the whale because he was experiencing his own appetites of the flesh which created hell in his mind. Jonah said that when he was in the belly of the whale, that he was in hell. Let's define hell. Hell is when you have no peace in your mind with vain imaginations. Hell is when you are in your own reasoning and your own human thoughts. The sea represents the human thoughts. Hell is when you have lost sight of God and all you can see is your situations and your problems. We all will have certain troubling situations and circumstances until we learn to stay out of the sea. If you do learn to stay out of the sea, your soul will die; it will have nothing to feed on. It won't have anymore worms to feed on.

Did you know that the Bible talks about the worm? *Where*

their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. Mark 9:44. When the soul and the flesh is not dead the fire hasn't gone out. So the fire is your trials and tribulations and your sufferings. It is when your mind is operating and not the mind of Christ. When the flesh is not dead the worm is still alive. The worm is still feeding off of something. The fire is not quenched. Boy, isn't that true! Now we are going to get on to that whale. Capitan Ahab bound himself to the whale, in the story of Moby Dick. We know that story and it is symbolic of what God is saying. The whale represents the soul. The soul is used to partaking of the sea of human thoughts. It is used to partaking of reasoning and the five senses. It is into the appetites of the flesh. It wants to get out there in the world and into the cares of this world. The soul has been programmed for this for so long. The whale is so very huge that it can even wreck a ship. That actually is the sea monster. It is the same way that some people can wreck other lives. Many people (ships) have been turned over and tossed to and fro and destroyed because of other people. It comes about because of hate and anger.

Sometimes God speaks in symbols so that we can understand what he is saying. When the whale moves he makes huge waves and it causes the waters to part. In trying to put a spear in a whale, the whale dives through the water and causes such waves as to escape. That is like the soul that is not led by the spirit and does not follow God and does not obey the voice of the Lord. The whale of the sea,

which is the soul, is driven. It is driven by it's desires. Those deep desires of the belly; the appetites of the flesh. So as it is driven it brings destruction and not life. Job asked an interesting question. He said - am I the sea? He was being enlightened. When he was so depressed and down, he said - am I the sea? He said - am I the sea monster? He said - my soul chooses strangling and death rather than my life. Job7:12-15, Am I a sea, or a whale, that thou settest a watch over me? 7:13, When I say, My bed shall comfort me, my couch shall ease my complaint; 7:14, Then thou scarest me with dreams, and terrifiest me through visions: 7:15, So that my soul chooseth strangling, and death rather than my life. Isn't that interesting? The soul choosing death rather than the life that is in Christ. He chose to disobey. When Jonah disobeyed he was cast into the belly of the whale; meaning he was cast into his own soul, into nothing but vanity, vanity, vanity. Everything under the sun is nothing but vanity. The only thing that is life is the mind of Christ. It is the only thing that can produce life; walking in the spirit and obeying Jesus.

We are at that place of the Garden of Gethsemane. For those who have known this word for a long time, God is requiring all of you to pay the price and lose it all for Him. He asked this of each and every one of you, or you wouldn't be here. He will ask every one of His sons to lay their life down. Are you willing to pay the price? Will you go all the way? Will you endure the cross for the joy that is set before you? Jesus endured the cross for

one reason and one reason only. It was because He saw the joy that was set before Him. If you could see the joy and the glory that God is getting ready to bring you into you would endure to the very end. When you endure and give your life that is when you will be laughed and mocked and made fun of. Jesus gave up His whole life for all creation. We don't have to be nailed to the cross like Jesus was. It was a representation of Him being nailed in the areas where you and I have disobeyed God. We have used our hands in sin and our feet and also our minds in sin. Jesus had to be crucified. He took that sea monster on the cross; that whale with a belly of appetites of the flesh and He crucified that Adam man. That is why Satan fell. Luke 10:18, And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. He failed because Adam was crucified on the cross; but we cause him to come alive again when we feed on the flesh. Jesus went through four different stages. He is the pattern that we are to follow; I know it without a doubt.

The first decision was that He was willing to count the cost. He paid the price. He said not my will but Thy will be done. When that was happening the disciples did not have an inkling of what was going on. They didn't believe what he said. We can have unbelief in our minds and not believe that we are going to go through a transition and that there is going to be an open manifestation of the sons of God for the glory of the Lord. Rom 8:19, For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

We can have disbelief in our minds and not believe what God has shown us and just go to sleep just like the disciples did. They went to sleep three times and did not believe him.

When Jesus Christ was in the tomb there was nothing but unbelief outside of the tomb. No one believed that He was going to rise from the dead. They were all in fear and unbelief. The whole world today is in fear and unbelief.

In the Song of Sol 8:7, *Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned.* it says when you give all your substance that is in your house, to the Lord, you will be reproached. When Christ made the decision to give His life and all of His substance for all creation; all mankind, He had to experience reproach. When He was dying on the cross, he was very uncomely to the eyes of man and to their flesh.

Sometimes you will go through things that are uncomely to others and they may mock you and make fun of you but they do not realize that God is working His cross in you. He is working you into more resurrection, glory and power.

Even when Paul was put in prison, they did not understand that it was the furthering of the ministry. God will put you through things to further His ministry for His glory. They spit on Jesus and took His garments so that He could give you His garments. They drove thorns into His head so that He could take your thorns; so he could take

your human thoughts and give you the mind of Christ.

When He was on the cross, He said, I am dying for you and I am paying for all your sins. In exchange I give you Myself. I give you My Holiness, I give you my righteousness, and I give you My mind. I give you My walk. I give you My Kingdom. I give you My glory. I give you all that I have; everything that I have I give to you.

To you little children, I give it all to you. I give you everything and when I died on the cross, I gave you everything that I had. I give you my garments. I clothe you with my righteousness. I clothe you in my love. I give you a kingdom that will be for eternity; it will last forever. It is my good pleasure to give you my kingdom. I make you kings and priests for you are a chosen generation; a royal priesthood.

Christ said to the very least even to the children, that they were a royal priest in His kingdom and for His glory. He gave all of this so that we might not be a sea monster; that we would not be like a whale that is always indulging in the sea and going through the waves with a roar. Going through the waves and flooding our minds with the worries and ups and downs that we have in life. He says, I give you a better life where you can walk in the world but not be of the world and walk in peace in your mind.

When the whale comes upon the shore and he is dead, you are dead in Christ, there is oil in you, and you are full of the anointing of the Lord. The oil of the Lord flows out of you as you walk in the Spirit, one with Him. When

there is nothing left and everything in your life has been crucified you will be in the mind of Christ all the time. Your anointing will go through the land and enter the minds of other people and you have not traveled anywhere in the natural. You have just sat here and allowed Christ to flow out of you.

When the whale is upon the shore and he is dead, they remove the skins to make oil and it is used for lighting lamps and it will light many houses. Jesus said, I am the light of the world and you are the light of the world. So Jesus is changing the sea monster into the image of Himself. He is changing the sea monster into the image of His glory and His likeness, His kindness and His gentleness.

When you come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and are filled with the Holy Spirit you start having battles in your mind. In fact you never had so many battles until you came to Him. When you have those battles, it is the flesh battling against the Spirit. When you have Christ in your life and you are filled with the Holy Spirit you have the mind of Christ.

When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, the first thing that happens is that you are tested and tried. When Christ went into the wilderness, he was tested. The wilderness is to prove, try and test you in every area of your mind; because God is looking for a people that will have a heart after Him and that will obey Him and pass all the tests. The tests are to show you your weak areas. The soul has had many lovers. The soul has had many things

that it loves more than it loves God. Is that not true? So God has to expose and reveal what those lovers are that cause your soul to be driven back into the sea; back into the sea of carnality in your mind. God puts you through a wilderness but He doesn't leave you, He just pulls back. You do not experience His presence and you do not hear His voice. Then you wonder where He went. The wilderness happens right here in your mind and not outside of yourself. It is to teach you to not walk by sight but to walk by faith. It is to teach you that even if you do not feel God's presence, He is still there. He never leaves you.

All Christians have to experience a wilderness. It is a very important learning experience. You are learning to lean on Him and rely on Him and none else. Judges 3:1 Now these are the nations which the LORD left, to prove Israel by them, even as many of Israel as had not known all the wars of Canaan; 3:2 Only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war, at the least such as before knew nothing thereof; 3:3 Namely, five lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites that dwelt in mount Lebanon, from mount Baalhermon unto the entering in of Hamath. 3:4 And they were to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

Song of Solomon 8:5, Who is this who cometh up from the wilderness leaning upon her beloved? Thank God that He doesn't leave you in the

wilderness because it is a very dry place and that is where all the bugs and snakes and everything else can be found. That wilderness is where He turns you over to your own mind; your human thoughts and He tests, tries and proves and reveals to you what is in your heart. He reveals what your heart desires that is not like Him. Those things have to be exposed. You may feel God has left you but He hasn't. He is watching and observing everything that is going on in your life. He is always trying to teach you to lean on Him. Who is this who cometh up from the wilderness leaning upon her beloved? Sol 8:5, He is talking about the soul. The soul through the wilderness has begun to learn to lean on and rely on Christ. We would never learn to lean on Him without the wilderness. You learn to lean on Christ and you begin to rest in Him. You lay your head upon the breast of Jesus which is faith and love.

Awaken thee under the apple tree; there my mother brought thee forth. This line is talking about the church. Brought you forth and birthed you to become a man-child. There she brought thee forth who bore thee. Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thy arm for love is strong as death. .....Song of Sol 8:6.

Now the key for you is to let Him have His entire way in your life. You have to love Him all the way. What enabled Christ to totally die was the joy that was set before Him and the love that was there between Him and His Father.

Endurance is a powerful word, to endure to the end. It is not

how you start out but how you end up and hold up under stress and suffering. He endured the cross and the suffering because He saw the glory; the transition that was getting ready to take place. It was a transition into the next realm. I declare unto you today that those with patience and endurance are very precious in the eyes of the Lord. You go through tribulation and you do not like it; you do not like the fire but that is the only way to get patience and endurance worked in you. This is how God works His nature in you and me. It can not be worked in you any other way. You agreed to follow Him and He loves you enough to bring you this way in order to work His nature in you. To endure is to hold up under suffering; to put up with insults and rejection.

Jesus could have come down off of the cross anytime if he wanted to. He was God on the cross. He could have spoken the Word and called the fire down and killed them all because he was God. He could have called on ten thousand angels to come and get Him off of the cross. But He didn't because He saw something which was much more than what man was seeing. Man was looking at Him and seeing the suffering. It was not pleasing to the flesh; it was ugly to look at. When the carnal man sees you going through troubles or trial and they see God working on you, they look at you and they do not like what they see. You are a reproach. The flesh doesn't like it because it is not pleasing to the eyes. They made fun of Jesus. He endured until He was dead.

There were three stages that he had to go through.

In Sol 8:6, It says, .... Love is strong as death. What's going to conquer death is love. Jealousy is cruel as hell. What is going to conquer death in you is love - the love of God and a relationship with Him. That is what will conquer. Did you know that jealousy creates hell? If you are jealous of someone you put yourself in hell. You kids live in a world that is not easy. You experience so much competition at school and in your community. You are so concerned about what is hip and what the style is. I thank God that some kids get away from those baggy pants. Kids try to get attention with red, green or purple hair. Most of these kids have been neglected or haven't been loved and they are trying to be noticed. They need attention because of insecurity. Jealousy shows there is insecurity. You know, there are some cruel things going on today, in the schools. A seven year old killed a little girl, and just the other day, three first graders got together and killed a little girl with their words because they did not like her, they were jealous. Jealousy is an evil thing. One may not admit that they are jealous but if it is true, you can not hide it. I must say that the sons of God know their position and they don't break ranks. They know who they are, and are not jealous of another position. Knowing who you are in Christ, you do not have to be like anybody else. Kids today are trying to follow an image. I have watched it over the years. Some kids want to follow a singer, dancers or movie stars and take

on their image. The only image God wants us to have is of Him. Kids are searching for something and they do not know it but they are searching for the Christ. That is what we are all looking for but some of us just do not understand. Those of you who are called by God, you will be rejected and despised because you are different. You were different when you were in your mother's womb. God called you and the decision was made right then and there, that you were going to be different. Sometimes you may wonder - why don't the kids like me? Why don't they accept me? And you try everything to be accepted. You might try to buy their friendship. Just remember, the best thing to do is to be yourself. God will bring a friend along. He will bring a friend who will be like you. You are going to be different. You are peculiar whether you like it or not and the more you get in God, the stranger you become. It is because you do not react the way other people do and you do not get in the soul and scream and yell. You are just walking that steady course of the peace of God.

Sol 8:7, Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned. (Despised; scorned; slighted; neglected, or rejected with disdain.)

Now that is the key. When you get back into the sea which is human thoughts and you get into fretting and worrying and into your ups and downs. The love between you and God will get you out of those waters. The love

is the key. Sometimes thoughts will flood your mind. Someone will do something and it will stick in your mind. I have learned to just back away from those thoughts. I get my mind on something else because if I do not - I will be swallowed up in the flood and you go right down into hell again. At times you may even be caught up in someone else's flood. Working with people like I do you can get caught up in their flood of thoughts and you don't realize it because you have so much concern for them.

God is trying to teach you what will sustain you and keep you from the flood of thoughts and that is the love between you and Christ. That will sustain you and you won't drown. It says, if a man would give all the substance of his house for love.... Sol 8:7, That is the key verse. That is exactly what Christ did at the Garden of Gethsemane He gave all of His substance of His house to the Father because he wanted to go into the next realm. He knew that would happen and he gave all of His substance, His self will. If He gave all of His substance of His house for love, He would be utterly reproached.

When you finally yield your whole being to God you are going to be reproached, just as Christ was on the cross. You will be despised because of this love between you and God. Isn't that beautiful?

Now Jonah was hard headed like all of us have been. When you get tired of your hells you realize that you never want to go back to that. You learn obedience through the things which you suffer. If you do not learn to be

obedient, you just end up in hell again in your mind.

As an example – say I get up in the morning and I am mad and very upset because of something, someone has done to me. But I hear a voice; I hear the voice of the Lord. A word of the Lord in my head – rejoice, in everything give thanks. A part of me says – are you kidding? You want me to rejoice after what they did to me? I am not going to. Right then and there I refused to submit to the word and the spirit. I was allowing more hells to remain in my mind because I did not want to obey God and His Word.

When God told Jonah to go to Nineveh to tell the people to repent, Jonah did not want to obey. Repentance is a change of mind. Did you know that you will go on repenting and repenting and your mind will continue to change until your mind is changed into the mind of Christ? You will come to the place where God has swallowed up your soul. Where He has swallowed up your carnal mind and it is nothing but the mind of Christ. Then there will be no more repentance. Every time you have repented you have changed your mind. It is as simple as that.

When you rebel against God, he throws you into the sea. We know the men with Jonah through him into the sea. There were so many storms around them that they wondered who was in that boat who was not obeying God. They felt they would stop the storm by getting rid of Jonah. Jonah said, “Okay throw me into the sea.” As soon as he was thrown into the sea the storm stopped. Everything was calm. Interesting that the people

on the ship understood what was happening even before Jonah got it, they took Jonah and cast him into the sea and the storm ceased. So we can see that Jonah’s disobedience was creating hell for others who were around him. When they threw Jonah into the sea and the storm stopped, the men feared the Lord exceedingly. Jonah 1:16, *Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows.*

They realized that it was God and they offered a sacrifice onto the Lord. They sacrificed themselves before the Lord even before Jonah did. Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. I do believe that there was a whale.

In the natural I know that none of you have been inside the belly of a whale. God put Jonah in the whale and then He was spit out onto the shore. I believe that when he went down in the belly of the whale it must have stunk. It was nothing but yuk..yuk...yuk!! The odor must have been overwhelming. There were probably some dead fish in there to. When you get into the sea monster and into the belly of the whale (meaning getting into the appetites of the flesh) you are going to hang out with someone else who is dead and in sin and in the appetites of the flesh and it gets dirty. It gets filthy, ugly and unclean. I know the inside of the whales belly was unclean. When you get into the belly of your own hells it is like the belly of the whale. It represents the hell in your mind. When you get in the hell in your mind you have every kind of imagination and illusion and lies and you can not see

straight. The only time you see straight is when you are in the mind of Christ. The Holy Spirit is the only one who has the truth. The only way you can get out of the belly of the whale is to cry out to God. God lets you go right into the carnality of your appetites in order to bring you to the place where you do not want it anymore. Sadly some people never come out of the belly of the whale.

I understand why Paul cried and wept and he told them – let them that walk like I walk for I am an example unto you and mark them that walk this walk like Christ. He said – mark them, but he said there are those who are enemies to the cross because they worship their god. They worship self. That is basically what he was saying. They worship the appetites of the flesh. Jonah got sick of the belly of the whale and his afflictions.

The only reason we cry out to God is because of the hells we create. Jonah said, “I cry by the reason of mine afflictions unto the Lord and He heard me out of the belly of hell” The appetites of the flesh created the hells. “Cried I and thou heardest my voice for thou hast cast me into the deep of the seas and the floods compassed me about.” Jonah 2:2, In other words - -God said, “I’ll let you go into your own human thoughts. I’ll let you go and do your own thing and the flood of your own thoughts take over your mind. “That is exactly what happened to Jonah. But he began to cry out. Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. The waters compassed about me even to my soul; the depth closed



me around about weeds wrapped about my head. Jonah 2:4, 5 Then he goes on - they that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. Jonah 2:8

So in order to stay in the mercy of the Lord do not give in to vanities except that which is in Christ. Jonah learned his lesson and that is the point I want to make. We are going to tie it in here and finish up. Jonah learned his lesson because he repented. God did not change His mind. God said go to Nineveh and proclaim what I told you. Jonah was shocked when Nineveh repented. The whole town repented. God spared the whole town. He did not kill anybody. He destroyed no one. He spared them all. But it displeased Jonah because he thought they should have gone through hell. How come they didn't go through the hell and torment that I did? How come they didn't experience the belly of the whale like I did? Well they did exactly what God told them to do. They followed the instructions of the Lord. It is as simple as that.

Jonah goes on in chapter 4:1, 2, It displeased Jonah exceedingly and he was very angry and he prayed unto the Lord was this not my saying, when I was yet in my country?..... Notice he wasn't in God's country but he was in his own country. He is saying when I was in my own self will. .....Therefore I fled before into Tarshish, for I knew that thou art a gracious God. See I disobeyed you God because I knew you would forgive me.

Come on, hear what I am saying. That is the trick of the soul. It is always talking to you. Oh go ahead, do it. God will

forgive you. The soul didn't tell you the hells you would go through. Sin is a pleasure for a season and then your own sins will correct you. Now Jonah might have had a little pleasure on that boat, doing his own thing, but it didn't last long. It was just a season and then his sin corrected him.

We do not get away with anything. You kids, when you lie to your parents it is going to come back to you sooner or later. When I was little I would tell myself that I was only telling a little white lie and that is not a bad lie. There is no such thing as a little white lie. They are all black. If I did something or my brother did something they would say I did it or I would say they did it. That is the Adam nature. God came to him and Adam said Eve did it. Adam tried to put the blame on Eve. Adam is always lying so he won't have to look at the truth. One lie leads to another. I have seen people tell so many lies that they believe their own lies. Some people can convince you of anything. You can see them in action. They can be so convincing that you end up believing them.

Satan is the father of lies and Adam is too. All of your lies come back to haunt you. What goes around, comes around. If someone lies to you it hurts you very deeply. A lie brings pain. God wants us to learn these basic principles and learn them even at a young age and to apply them. Sometimes it is hard to talk to your parents. When I was little I couldn't talk to my dad, because I was afraid of him. I couldn't talk to my mother either. It seemed

she was always telling us to break off a hickory stick and she would wack us with it. So I did not know who to talk to. I did not know Jesus like I know Him now. If you talk to Him about what bothers you He will help you. Then you can go to your parents and talk to them. Jesus will help you to know the time to talk to them so that you can open up. There will be times when you do need to talk to someone. You need someone who will understand you.

Parents, do not call your kids names. That can be very hurtful and damaging. Be more loving than condemning. If you call them names, they will believe what you say and believe that they are what you say. It can effect them for the rest of their lives. So all these things we have to learn and to apply in our walk with God, if you do this you will see a change.

I guess the good Lord had a reason for us to bring that out. Any of you kids learn anything today? Raise your hand if you did. Good!

Do any of you know what is in a gourd? There are many seeds in a gourd? A gourd grows off of a vine. The vine goes all over the place. Is not a gourd used as a water dipper? Yes, Indians know that. They had gourds of all sizes and they made good use of them. I used to wonder why in the world God created a gourd. What was He trying to get across to Jonah? See Jonah 4:6-10. God prepared everything. He prepared the worm and the gourd. God is saying I created Jonah and I created the gourd. The gourd is the word and the Spirit. God was trying to teach

Jonah how happy he could be when the gourd would overshadow his mind. He was exceedingly glad when this gourd came up over his mind and overshadowed it. Gourds are full of seeds, which represents the Word and the Spirit. When you let the Word and the Spirit overshadow your mind you are allowing God's Word to take over your mind.

In reference to Israel, why did they write little marks on their foreheads? It meant that they were trying to learn the Word of the Lord. They were trying to get it in their minds. God wants you, also, to get this Word in your mind. He wants you to read the Word. If you allow the Word to overshadow your soul you will stay in the Spirit. You will have joy and peace because you have the mind of Christ. None of us have gotten there totally yet. Remember when the worm comes something happens.

Look at Jonah 4:2. *For I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful and slow to anger and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.* V.3 *Therefore now, O Lord, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.* He totally began to see and understand that it was better for him to die to self and let Christ live.

Paul said, *"I am dead in Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ liveth in me."* It is better for me to die to this self will. Jonah began to see what God was saying. Then he said, *Lord dost thou well to be angry?* Jonah 4.4. So Jonah went out of the city and set on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth; and sat under it in the

shadow until he might see what would become of the city. Verse 6, *and the Lord God prepared a gourd and made it to come up over Jonah.* Now all of the sudden this gourd was coming from the vine and we know Christ is the vine.

In John 15, Christ is talking about coming into a rest. Fifteen means rest. The mind comes into a rest when the Word and the spirit is overshadowing it.

In Jonah 4.6, *The Lord prepared...* Notice God prepared it and made it come over his head to deliver him from his grief. Maybe you have lost your joy; maybe you have been in depression or have been defeated. Maybe you have been down. Perhaps you have been upset and have been going through a lot lately.

This morning I saw a well known gospel singer. I do not know his name. He said he was in depression for months. He kept going to church but he couldn't get out of the depression. He said he had so many problems. There was a death in the family. There were money problems and more. He was so depressed that he didn't see any hope. All he could see was his problems. Then one day the Lord directed him to read 1 Thes.5:18, *In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

He said when he began to thank the Lord in it, he came out of the depression and he started to see very clearly. So when the Word overshadowed his mind, the Word of God brought him out of that hell. Through praise and thanksgiving he came out of his depression. So praise God no

matter what you are going through. Kids this is one very important thing to learn. Because you will have problems in school whether it be in your studies or with other kids or with teachers. Just remember you can give thanks to the Lord for the problem. Just thank him for who He is and praise Him. When you praise Him you will get your mind off the problem.

Notice this, the Lord God prepared a gourd and made it come up over Jonah so that it would be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from grief. The word and the spirit overshadowed his mind. So Jonah was exceedingly glad of the gourd. He was so happy for the Word of God.

When you started coming here and you heard the Kingdom message you were excited. Everyone of you in this room was very excited when you heard this Kingdom message. The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. It is in the Holy Spirit not in meat and drink and not in revelation. It is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Notice what God did. He prepared the gourd and then He prepared the worm. God is trying to teach Jonah something here. The worm represented the flesh. The worm rose up the next day and that is just what happens to you. You could be so happy in God today and be rejoicing in God and the worm could show up tomorrow. Do you follow what I am saying?

So what is the worm going to do? Satan came to rob and to steal. Satan in the carnal mind, wants to rob and steal and to take

your joy. Satan doesn't want you to be happy or to be extremely glad. Actually the worm was created to push you back into God. When you get sick and tired of the worm you are going to stay in the Word and the Spirit.

Why did He create Satan? Satan is the serpent. He crawls on the ground. Do you kids like snakes? Well there are a lot of snakey people out there. The carnal man is a snake. Where does he go. He is down on the ground. A snake is slimy and sneaky. He can creep up on you anytime he wants to. I lived in N.C. and I knew about racer snakes. They could race you out of the woods and they would come after you too. They can swoop down that mountain as fast as you can bat an eye. My daddy used to tell me about those racers.

To move along I will say that there is good in everything that God has created. Actually snakes astound me. You may look at a person's countenance and see that he is an earthy man or a heavenly man. Or you can look at a woman and see that she is earthy or heavenly. Sometimes their countenance shows you the darkness of the world and the worries and cares of this world. They are just like a snake crawling on the earth and eating from the appetites of the flesh. That is all that the serpent can feed on. It can not feed on anything but the flesh. In the scripture the worm represents the flesh.

God prepared a worm when the morning rose to the next day, and it smote the gourd and it withered. It came to pass when the sun rose, that God prepared

an east wind. Jonah 4:7, 8. You see, God is doing the preparing here. He prepared an east wind. East is the revelation and understanding that God wants us to have. He wants us to understand the spiritual things and also the carnality of man's mind. He wants you to understand what the flesh man is.

I want every one of you in this room to read Gal. 5. It will show you the carnal man and the spiritual man. You will see it in yourself and in others. The Bible says that we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly ICor.15.49. Now we are bearing the heavenly and not the earthy because we have been born again.

Jonah 4.8, *It came to pass when the sun did arise, that God did prepare a vehement east wind, and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah....* Revelation, understanding and the Word of the Lord began to beat upon the carnal mind; Jonah's understanding and his beliefs. It beat upon his mind until Jonah fainted. Oh, the flesh man is getting weak. Thank you Lord. The more you let the Lord have His way, the flesh man becomes weak and starts dying and is near to fainting. He is ready to pass out.

Jonah 4.8, *...that he fainted And wished in himself to die.* When you start seeing Christ you will hate the flesh. You will hate it in yourself and hate it in others. You get a taste of the nature of God and that is what you have been looking for. You hate the carnality in yourself and in others. He begins to see how carnal he was and how disobedient he was. He saw how

self centered he was. This is when he realized that he was willing to pay the price. He wanted to die to self. He said that he wished to die and said it is better to die than to live. He had insight, just like Paul had. Paul wept and cried and said when are they going to get it? Three times Jesus said - the Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. The disciples kept going to sleep because of the cares of this world. If you were in tune with the Spirit you wouldn't go to sleep. You would be wide awake longing for more understanding of Christ. If you are going to sleep it must be because you are still very much concerned with the cares of this world. This is not a state for any of us to be in, in this hour.

Jonah 4:9,10, God said, *Jonah, doesn't thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry even unto death.* He started hungering for the mind of Christ. He was hungering for the will of God and not His own. Then said the Lord, *thou hast had pity on the gourd for the which thou hast not labored.* None of you labored for this Word. God gave it to you free of charge. *...Neither madest it grow....* Jonah 4.10. In other words God is the one who is making it grow in you and me. That seed came up in the night, in the darkness of your mind and set you free. It also perished in the night when you went back into the darkness of your mind; that is when it perished.

Basically God was trying to give Jonah an example and saying - is it not right for me to forgive Nineveh because they repented and obeyed me? God was trying to teach Jonah, in this

entire chapter, to be obedient to the Word and the Spirit. It was better for his self will to die and for him to obey Christ. It is very simple. It is not complicated. God used the gourd to teach Jonah. He was saying abide in the vine, abide in Christ and if you abide in Me, I will have to purge you. I will have to cut things away that are not like Me so that you will come forth in much fruit. John 15:1,2.

That is what the Father is doing for us. He is bringing forth much fruit in this body here. The Father wants us to believe what He says about the transition that will take place for His sons who are following Him. When Jesus transformed they took Him off the cross. He even told them that He would go into the belly of the earth for three days and three nights. Just like Jonah did in the belly of the whale. Jesus had to go into the belly of hell; the belly of the earth. He went into man's mind - that is exactly what he did. He went into man's hells. He went into your hells. He went into the hells of all creation. He also went into all those who died in the days of Noah. He went in and preached to them reconciliation, forgiveness and mercy and He ministered to them and released them while He was in hell. He was preaching to a lot of people when He went into hell. He was saying you are forgiven. When he came out of the grave many people came out with Him. They walked down to the city of Jerusalem. 1Peter 3:30 It said the Queen of Sheba would judge those people in that day. Let us go to Matt. 12.39,40,41, **But He answered and said unto them - an evil and adulteress generation**

**always seeketh after a sign and there shall be no sign given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah.** And they didn't know what He was talking about, they had no inkling. Jesus was talking about His death and going to hell and resurrecting. As Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's body and he laid in hell in his soulish thoughts wrapped with the weeds around his neck and around his head. **Jesus said, so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.** He was saying I am going to go down into the heart; I am going to go into hell; I am going to go to all those people who are in hell. I have to go there.

As soon as He resurrected he descended into hell. He did not go back to the Father then. He had to go into hell to release all those people. He experienced all of your hells and the hell of every man in this whole world. He experienced it for all of us and He went there for three days and three nights.

**He said the men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment.** They rose with Jesus and they judged with Him. It says **they rise in judgment with this generation.** They are going to judge this generation because they repented. It says - **with this generation and shall condemn it.** It was not time to release them because they disobeyed God. They repented at the preaching of Jonah and got their minds changed and behold a greater than Jonah is here. Matt.12:42

The Queen of the south shall rise up in judgment with this generation and shall condemn it; for she came from the uttermost

parts of the earth to hear the Wisdom of Solomon, and behold, a greater than Solomon is here. I am here and you do not even know it; you do not even know who I am. So He was telling them where He was going to go and what He had to do at that time in Jerusalem. They didn't receive the Kingdom of God. That is why the whole city is overtaken by every religion that you can think of and every kind of belief. That is how it is in Israel because they did not receive the Kingdom of God at that time.

This is the day for you to walk in His Kingdom and receive all that He has for you. This is the Day for Jesus Christ to be Lord over your life, so that the Father can reveal Himself through you and me to mankind. What a great time we live in.

The good news is through the mercy of God, Rom 11:23, ..... **He is able to graft them in again. 26, And so all Israel shall be saved, as it is written, there shall come out of Zion a deliver and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.**

To God be the Glory. Amen.