

## **Brokenness (Part 4) - The Protest**

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### Introduction:

- A. There is always a price to pay in rebelling against God.
  - 1. God targets areas in our lives that need to be broken.
  - 2. He arranges the circumstances that bring us to brokenness.
  - 3. He chooses the tools needed to break us.
  - 4. He controls the pressure.
  - 5. He determines the time necessary.
- B. An independent spirit needs to be broken
  - 1. We don't lose our zest for living.
  - 2. We lose our independent spirits.
  - 3. Sometimes we don't like it.
  - 4. We sometimes resent God.

### I. Jonah is an example of one who resisted God's breaking. (Jonah 1:1-3)

- A. Jonah heard God's call but ran the other way.
  - 1. We cannot run from God.
  - 2. Running from God is like running from your own heart.
- B. God's call was to preach against Nineveh so that people might be saved.
  - 1. Nineveh was known for beauty and grander, but also for warlike atrocities.
  - 2. Johan knew Israel would be threatened by Nineveh in this time 760 B.C.
  - 3. Jonah's attitude was negative. (Jonah 4:1)
    - a. He feared that God would save Nineveh.
    - b. He wanted to see them punished.
    - c. Therefore he fled to Tarsus, away from the presence of the Lord.
  - 4. Has God required something of you that you are not doing?

C. How did God pursue Jonah?

1. Jonah was angry enough to disobey God.
  - a. He'd rather die than obey God.
  - b. God targeted Jonah's prejudice.
2. Jonah went to sleep on the ship bound for Tarsus.
  - a. God sent a storm on the sea.
  - b. The sailors identified Jonah as the problem by lot.
  - c. Jonah confessed his sin and the men threw him overboard.
  - d. A great fish swallowed Jonah.
  - e. This experience motivated Jonah to obey God.
  - d. Jonah preached in Nineveh and the people repented.
  - e. Jonah refused to rejoice and remained angry with God.
  - f. He knew that God was gracious.
  - g. He desired to die rather than see this revival in Nineveh.
  - h. God provided a plant to shade Jonah and he rejoiced over the plant.
  - i. God sent a worm to attack the plant and it died.
  - j. The sun beat down on Jonah's head and he desired to die.
  - k. He remained stubborn in his desire to die.
3. God calls all people in three ways.
  - a. To believe in Jesus as our savior.
  - b. To sanctification so that sin no longer reigns in our lives.
  - c. To service in the home, the business world, in church, or in missions.
4. How many of us have rebelled against God's call.
  - a. If God calls you to preach the Gospel going into business is not right.
  - b. When God calls we cannot rationalize disobedience.
  - c. We do not have better ways than God has.

- d. Our stubborn wills reveal our need for brokenness.
- e. I've met some people who have had experiences equal to that of Jonah.

D. How do we resist God?

1. We have rebellious spirits.
  - a. Jonah refused to go to Nineveh.
  - b. Once God has spoken on something that settles it.
  - c. God doesn't ask us what we think about his call.
2. We are prideful.
  - a. When we disobey we tell God we have found a better way - we cannot.
3. We fear obeying God.
  - a. Jonah may have had fear that God would save Nineveh.
  - b. He may have feared the reaction of the people of Nineveh.

E. Why do we resist God's breaking process in our lives?

1. God targets the areas.
2. God chooses the tools.
3. God controls the intensity and the time.
4. We have habits, attitudes, and desires that resist God.
5. We think we are free but we will never be free until we surrender to God.
6. Some people are strong with a forceful will and they resist God.
  - a. They have enough self-determination to resist God.
  - b. They can weasel out of God's breaking process in their life.
  - c. They refuse to stop and ask God what he is doing.
  - d. If we draw a circle around an area of life and refuse to obey God it won't work.
    1. Marriage.
    2. Business.
    3. Changing career.

7. Some people fail to see God's pressure in their lives.
  - a. We blame others for our problems.
  - b. We blame circumstances.
  - c. We blame our childhood environments.
  - d. We blame our enemies.
  - e. We don't realize that we are running from God's chastisement that is designed to bring us into God's best for our lives.
8. Some people have an unhealthy self love.
  - a. We want things our way.
  - b. Big "I" is in control.
  - c. God targets the self-will rather than the will of God to bring our wills under his direction.
  - d. There is always a price to pay in resisting God.

F. What is the result of resisting God?

1. God does not give up but keeps increasing the pressure.
2. Jonah never broke but resisted to the point of danger.
  - a. The sailors lost their cargo and nearly died with him on board.
  - b. Jonah went down to Joppa, down to the ship, down in the sea.
  - c. We always go down when we resist God.
  - d. Jonah was separated his family.
  - e. His conscience became guilty and he became estranged from God.
  - f. He lost money in paying the fare for the ship.
  - g. He finally prayed from the belly of the fish, calling out in despair.
  - h. He came to the point of death.
  - i. He remembered the Lord as he was fainting away.
  - j. He made a promise to God to pay what he had vowed.

- k. Imagine his emotional turmoil as he watched Nineveh repent of their sins, which he didn't want to see.
- l. He nearly had sunstroke and wanted to die.
- m. Some of you have rebelled against God, leaving church and making a mess of your lives.
- n. Your emptiness and loneliness and bleak future are a result of rebellion.
- o. Nothing will satisfy the emptiness in your heart until you come into relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
- p. You can't resist God without hurting other people, usually those we love.
- q. Husbands and wives hurt each other when they resist God.
- r. Children hurt parents when they resist God.
- s. People drink to escape the pressure of God's chastisement.

G. Who is hurting because of your resisting God?

- 1. Who is anxious because you're running from God?
  - a. Maybe your small children.
  - b. You think it will work out, but you don't realize the problem will work into your children.
- 2. Who is hurting because of your rebellion?

H. When we resist God we delay his blessing.

- 1. Some will resist until it is eternally too late.
- 2. Some will run until God puts you on the shelf.
- 3. Jonah did what God told him to do finally, but Jonah missed the blessing.
  - a. He could have had a joyous testimony.
  - b. Instead he wanted to die.
- 4. Some of you will go through life doing what God wants but you'll have no joy.
  - a. If you can't surrender all to Jesus you miss out.
  - b. What are you putting value on that leads you to resisting God?
  - c. When you stand in the judgment you will realize our plans are but dust.

d. Wise is the man or woman that surrenders to God's will.

e. Foolish is the man or women who resists God.

## II. Prayer.

*This is a sacred moment. Your word has penetrated the hearts of each hearer. Give each heart the grace to ask, "What do you want me to do?" Unbelievers need to come to faith. Believers need to submit to Christ's lordship. Thank you for what you're about to do. We thank you in Jesus' name.*