

SPIRITUAL INDICATORS

Jonah 1

June 7, 2009 Sunday am

INTRODUCTION

- A. In our age of information we have several indicators available to us. For example there are...
 - 1. Weather indicators—barometric pressure and dew points.
 - 2. Economic indicators—Dow Jones Industrial Average.
 - 3. Even our cars have indicators that its overheating or low on oil.
- B. Are there any spiritual indicators available to us?
 - 1. We need something to warn us when we get off track with God.
 - 2. There are spiritual indicators available to us today.
 - 3. We can see several in the book of Jonah.
- C. Jonah got off track with God.
 - 1. God wanted him to go one way, but Jonah chose to go another.
 - 2. Has this ever happened to you?
 - 3. What are the warning signs that this could happen to us?

I. ONE SPIRITUAL INDICATOR IS WHEN WE START IGNORING GOD'S WORD.

- A. Jonah heard a word from God.
 - 1. God spoke to him—1:1-2.
 - 2. God still speaks today.
 - a. How? The Bible, prayer, Holy Spirit, circumstances and other people.
 - b. The question isn't whether God speaks, because he does. The question is whether we are listening for God to speak to us. We usually hear who we want to hear.
- B. Even though God spoke to Jonah, Jonah chose not to listen.
 - 1. Instead he ran from God—1:3.
 - 2. Have you ever run from God?
 - a. Why?
 - b. Perhaps you were afraid he would ask you to do something you didn't want to do or go someplace you didn't want to go. This was Jonah's fear too.
 - c. Or perhaps you just didn't want God to interrupt your life. As long as we don't listen to God we continue to be in control of our lives.
 - d. But listen to God's word about our reasons for not listening to God.

Proverbs 3:5-6

**⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;**

**⁶ in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.**

Jeremiah 29:11

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future

II. A SECOND SPIRITUAL INDICATOR IS WHEN WE HARBOR HIDDEN SINS IN OUR LIVES.

- A. Jonah did this. His sin was prejudice—1:2 & 4:1-3.
- B. Do you have any hidden sin in your life?
 - 1. Have you hidden sin from others?

2. A drunken husband snuck up the stairs quietly. He looked in the bathroom mirror and bandaged the bumps and bruises he'd received in a fight earlier that night at the bar. He then climbed into bed, pleased with himself that he'd pulled one over on his wife. The next morning he was awakened by his wife standing over him. She said, "You were drunk last night weren't you?" "No honey, he said" "Well, if you weren't drunk then who put all the band-aids on the bathroom mirror?"
3. Have you ever tried to hide your sin from God? How is that going for you?
4. Unlike the drunken husband, you may be able to hide your sin from other people, but you can't hide it from God.

Numbers 32:23

²³ **you may be sure that your sin will find you out**

5. What should we do with our sin?

I John 1:9

⁹ **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

III. A THIRD SPIRITUAL INDICATOR IS WHEN WE DELIBERATELY DISOBEY GOD.

- A. Jonah chose to disobey God—1:3 "But".
- B. Have you disobeyed God in any area of your life?
 1. We might not say it like that. Perhaps we might say we negotiated with God or bargained with Him.
 2. The result, however, is the same—disobedience.

IV. A FOURTH SPIRITUAL INDICATOR IS WHEN WE DISREGARD GOD'S DISCIPLINE.

- A. This is what Jonah did—1:4-5. While everyone else was praying, he was asleep. He didn't see the connection with what was happening around him.
- B. Have you ever disregarded God's discipline?
- C. Remember this, though.

Hebrews 12:6

⁶ **the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son**

CONCLUSION

- A. Are you off track with God?
 1. Have you ignored his Word?
 2. Are you harboring sin?
 3. Are you disobedient?
 4. Are you disregarding God's discipline?
- B. How do we get back on track?
 1. First, confess that you are off track.
 2. Second, call out to God in prayer—2:1.