



*Confronting Sin, John 2:18-25*

## Confronting Sin

- **Jonah 1:1-2 NIV**, 1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: 2 “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”
  - Come up before me = it has come to a point where it demands the specific warning and judgment of God if not repented
- **Jonah 1:3 NIV**, 3 But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

## Confronting Sin

- **Jonah 4:2 NIV**, 2 He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.
- **Jonah 1:4 NIV**, 4 Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up.
  - Doesn’t this seem kind of extreme for God to do this to Jonah, the men, and the ship?

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- **Luke 12:48b NIV**, “From everyone who has been given (*shown*) much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much (*knowledge, material*), much more will be asked.”
- Why did Jonah run?
  - He loved his hatred for the Ninevites more than his devotion to God



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- **John 2:14-17 NIV**, 14 In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. 15 So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16 To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!”
  - Jesus was offended by what He found in the temple courts, why?
  - Didn’t they provide a useful service for those coming to worship?
  - Didn’t the worshipers find this easier than trying to bring their own sacrifices from great distances?

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- **Matthew 21:13 NIV**, “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’”
- **John 2:17 NIV**, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”
  - Zeal = Great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or an objective
  - The religious leaders also had zeal, it was just pointed in a different location

## Scripture

- **John 2:18-25 NIV**, 18 The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?” 19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” 20 They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” 21 But the temple he had spoken of was his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

## Scripture

- **John 2:18-25 NIV**, 23 Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. 24 But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. 25 He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.



## Confronting Sin

- Confront = face up to and deal with (a problem or difficult situation)
  - David refused to confront his sin of adultery with Bathsheba until God sent the prophet Nathan
  - Jonah refused to confront his sin of rebellion until the huge fish
  - Israel refused to confront their sin of idolatry until captivity
- There was sin happening in the temple dedicated to a holy, righteous God that needed addressed and the Son of God did

## God can and will use anyone and anything to confront sin you allow to remain in your life

- Even a talking donkey - Balaam and King Balak
  - **Numbers 22:28 NIV**, 28 Then the Lord opened the donkey's mouth, and it said to Balaam, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?"
- Jesus is in the business of confronting all sin that undermines the true worship of God and transformation in your life

## **God can and will use anyone and anything to confront sin you allow to remain in your life**

- Jesus being the Son of God had the authority to address this sin, but it really did not matter who or how it was addressed
- Notice their initial response to Jesus?
  - Was it questioning what the temple was for?
  - Was it a disagreement on what Scripture said about the temple?

## God can and will use anyone and anything to confront sin you allow to remain in your life

- “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”
- The spiritual leaders knew there was sin in the temple they were responsible for
  - They were like Jonah and did not care what happened to Gentiles, foreigners, ceremonial unclean, or the “*unblessed*” in their eyes
- God might use someone who hates you because they don’t care if they hurt your feel-good

## **God can and will use anyone and anything to confront sin you allow to remain in your life**

- The spiritual leaders were allowing and even encouraging sinful acts to take place in the temple and did nothing to stop it, why?
  - The religious professed to love God, offered their sacrifices to God but they loved the money generated, the position of power, and the recognition more
- Jesus was consumed with His love of the Father
  - That love present itself as zeal for His house and zeal for His Word
  - If you want to see what someone's zeal is, offend what they love

## God can and will use anyone and anything to confront sin you allow to remain in your life

- Jesus was offended by what He found in the temple
  - The religious leaders were offended by Jesus disrupting their material gain and position
- **1st Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV**, 19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.



## **God can and will use anyone and anything to confront sin you allow to remain in your life**

- Has God confronted sin in your life?
  - Randy, what does it matter if I am saved?
  - As Paul said we have been bought with a price for the purpose of transforming our character into the character of Christ
  - You can't walk with Jesus, who is holy, without at some point having Him confront your sin

## **God can and will use anyone and anything to confront sin you allow to remain in your life**

- He does it gently with those who are weighed down with the burden of their sin, but with self-righteous religious hypocrites, He gets pretty tough
  - Wherever you're at on the spectrum, there is no such thing as having real contact with Jesus without having Him confront your sin
  - When He does, don't respond as the Jews did when He cleared their business out of the temple

## **Instead of acknowledging their sin and turning from it, they attacked the messenger**

- If you're not sure this is true just state what Scripture tells us about sins on social media
  - Just simply speak the truth in love
  - You will be attacked for nothing more than quoting what God has said in the Bible
  - You will probably go to social media jail for a period of time

## **Instead of acknowledging their sin and turning from it, they attacked the messenger**

- The spiritual leaders knew Jesus was right, but rather than facing their sin, they dodged it by challenging Jesus' right to do what He did
  - “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?” or prove yourself Jesus
  - They don't want to believe because they know Jesus is confronting their sin, so they are just dodging the issue
  - You have enough truth to be born-again, to turn from the sin the Holy Spirit is bringing up in your life

## **Instead of acknowledging their sin and turning from it, they attacked the messenger**

- To challenge Jesus is to assume superiority over Him in your life
  - You don't approach the Lord of your life as if you are the lord of your life
  - It is the King that determines the character of the Kingdom and not the citizens
  - What He confronts in your life may be different than what He confronts in others

## The resurrection of Christ is the ultimate proof of the Lordship of Jesus

- **Vs. 19**, Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”
  - **Romans 10:9 NIV**, If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
  - The proof of every word, promise, act of Jesus is His bodily resurrection from the dead



## The resurrection of Christ is the ultimate proof of the Lordship of Jesus

- **Luke 24:4-8 NIV**, 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” 8 Then they remembered his words.

## The resurrection of Christ is the ultimate proof of the Lordship of Jesus

- **Acts 2:22-24 NIV**, “22 “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

## The resurrection of Christ is the ultimate proof of the Lordship of Jesus

- **1st Corinthians 15:7 NIV**, “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.”
  - Futile = incapable of producing any useful result; pointless
- **1st Corinthians 15:20 NIV**, “But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

## Confronting Sin

- The Jewish skeptics and the disciples both saw the same person, heard the same teaching, and were given the same sign of Jesus' resurrection
  - The skeptics refused to repent of their sins and eventually crucified the Lord of glory
  - The disciples remembered Jesus' words

## Confronting Sin

- Faith in Christ is not a once-for-all decision in the past, salvation is, but not faith
  - The disciples believed in Christ when they first began to follow Him *(John 1:50)*
  - They believed again when they saw His glory when He turned the water into wine *(John 2:11)*
  - Now, after the resurrection they reflect back on Jesus' words here and *"they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken."* *(John 2:22)*
  - Until they reached the point where they could proclaim, "You are the Christ the Son of the living God" *(Matt. 16:16)*

## Confronting Sin

- As we understand more and more from the Scriptures of who Jesus is, our faith continually grows up in Him
  - Note also that it takes time for spiritual truth to sink in
  - The disciples didn't connect all the dots at first, but they kept asking, seeking, and knocking, and eventually the door of understanding was opened
  - This is also the same promise given to you





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