

Assignment 8

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Acts 1:7-8 NLT

He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

In the previous passage, some of the disciples asked Jesus if he was going to restore the Kingdom of Israel at that time. He responds by indicating that only the Father knows, and it is not for them to know. They are to go out and preach about the Kingdom and will receive power of the Holy Spirit to help them in their mission.

1 Corinthians 11:27-32 NLT

So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup. For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God’s judgement upon yourself. That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died.

But if we examine ourselves, we would not be judged by God in this way. Yet when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

In the previous passages we see how some members of the Corinthian church are eating their fill without sharing with others, while others are getting drunk. They are being warned that this is not the proper way to observe the Lord’s Supper and that it is a remembrance of what Jesus sacrificed for us. Paul warns the church to examine what they are doing and to understand the significance of Christ’s sacrifice and that there will be consequences as some of the members have become sick and/or died. Paul states though that this judgement is disciplinary to correct His people, so they will not be condemned.

Thanks Karen. Clear, succinct and a good summary of the passage.

Jonah

In the first section the Lord instructs Jonah to travel to Nineveh to announce God's judgement against it. Jonah gets on a ship traveling in the opposite direction.

The Lord causes a huge storm and those on the ship are fearing for their lives and start praying to their gods.

The captain goes and wakes Jonah and tells him to pray to his god. The crew casts lots and it lands to Jonah and proceeds to tell them that he is running away from God and that they should throw him overboard. They do not at first and try rowing to shore, but it is of no use. They eventually throw Jonah overboard, and the storm stops, and a great fish swallows Jonah. He starts to fervently pray to God and after 3 days the fish spits him out on the beach.

The Lord orders Jonah to go to Nineveh again, and Jonah obeys, announcing that in forty days Nineveh will be destroyed. The people and the king don burlap and fast, praying to God and stopping their evil ways.

God saw how they repented and changed his mind about destroying Nineveh. This upset Jonah and he is angry with God's mercy and wants to die. He makes shelter on the east side of the city. God has a plant shoot up and the leaves provide shelter from the extreme heat of the sun but the next morning a worm eats up the leaves and Jonah is faced with extreme sun beating down along with the wind. Jonah is angry that the plant dies and wants to die himself. God tries to make Jonah understand that He provided the plant in an act of mercy and took it away and that Nineveh has 120,000 people that were living in spiritual darkness but now have repented and that they should be given mercy as well.

Jonah 1:13-16 NLT

Instead the sailors rowed even harder to get the ship to land. But the stormy sea was too violent for them, and they couldn't make it. Then they cried out to the Lord, Jonah's God. "O Lord," they pleaded, "don't make us die for this man's sin. And don't hold us responsible for his death. O Lord, you have sent this storm upon him for your own good reasons."

Then the sailors picked Jonah up and threw him into the raging sea, and the storm stopped at once! The sailors were awestruck by the Lord's great power, and they offered him a sacrifice and vowed to serve him.

In the text we see how Jonah disobeys God by boarding a ship in the opposite direction. God send a great storm risking all those onboard. The crew of the ship had mercy on Jonah and tried harder to row to shore, but to no avail. The crew cry out to God to have mercy on what they are about to do and threw Jonah over. After the storm abruptly stops, the crew start to worship God. God then sends a fish to swallow and save Jonah to complete his mission. When Jonah goes to Nineveh and announces what is going to happen, the king and the people repent of their sins. They dress in burlaps, fast, and change their evil ways. God changes his mind because of the people changed. Jonah knew God would have mercy for the crew if he was thrown overboard but did not expect mercy for Nineveh even though they repented. God had to show and explain to Jonah the mercy he showed to city Nineveh and when those who disobey and repent can be shown mercy.

Do you think that mercy for the sailors, mercy for those in Nineveh, as contrasted to Jonah's lack of mercy is a key theme? Thanks Karen. Well done.