

GRACE SAYS, LET GO!

TODAY'S QUESTION: What do I need to let go of?

TODAY'S KEY VERSE: **Jonah 2:8** -- "Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs."

SERIES QUESTION: Why me?

SERIES THEME: To discover, understand, and be confident in our God-given purpose for life

My God-given purpose is _____!

- > Jonah didn't always get it right!
- > Even though he _____ the truth about God's grace, Jonah never lived _____ in the grace of God.

Questions → Do you understand the grace of God? Do you live in it?

To fully experience my God-given purpose, I need to let go of _____

TODAY'S THEME: By God's grace, I can let go of my _____, my _____, and my _____, and fully experience God purpose for my life

I. GOD'S GRACE SAYS, LET GO OF YOUR PLANS

A. THE _____ MAN AND HIS PLAN

- ▶ "But Jonah..." 1:3, 5b (6) 4:1(5, 9)
- > Jonah's story begins and ends with his stubbornness.

Question → What had happened? How did he end up like this?

- ▶ There had been a time when it was very different.
- II Kings 14:25b, 26

- ▶ Grace _____ flowing when our plan is not God's plan.
- Jonah 1:1-3

Question → What was the lesson in the fish's belly?

- Jonah 2:8

Question → Am I stubbornly clinging to a plan that isn't God's plan?

- ▶ Stubbornness is often the _____ of God's people.
- Exodus 32:9
- ▶ Israel missed God's best through stubbornness!
- > They became _____ to Nineveh and Babylon because of it.
- II Kings 17:14,15
- ▶ If it's not God's plan for your life, it is a worthless idol.
- > Jesus saves us from the worthless idolatry of _____.
- Matthew 16:24-26

Question → Are you stubbornly clinging to a worthless plan?

B. THE STUBBORN _____ OF GRACE

- ▶ God graciously "buts" into the story of Jonah.
- 1:4,6,7,13,17
- > God graciously sends a _____, the captain, the _____ and the big fish.
- 2:6b, 9, 10
- > God graciously heard his prayer and saves him.
- > The fish graciously _____ him up.
- 3:1, 8, 9, 10
- > God graciously gave him a _____ chance to preach.
- 4:4, 6, 8, 10
- > God graciously confronts his anger and gives him a plant for shade and a _____ to teach him another lesson.
- ▶ God's grace is more stubborn than Jonah!

Question → What is it that will save us from our stubbornness?

By God's grace I can let go of my stubbornness about _____

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II. GOD'S GRACE SAYS, LET GO OF YOUR FEARS

A. THE _____ MAN AND THE _____ OF HIS WORLD

- ▶ Jonah saw his world as something to run away from.

Question → Is fear a good way to live and make decisions?

- > Jonah feared and _____ himself from his world.
 - 1:9

Question → What does grace say about our world?

B. THE GOD OF GRACE SAYS, ____ TO YOUR WORLD

Questions → How do I see the people of my world? What does God see?

- ▶ The Church is not a fortress of fear!
 - > We are not here run from our world and build _____.
 - > Our message is the gracious, and only, _____ of our world.
- ▶ Our prayer is, 'God give us your grace, courage and patience.'
 - II Peter 3:9, 15
 - Jonah 2:9b

God's grace says I can let go of my fear and say _____

TODAY'S QUESTION: What do I need to let go of?

III. GOD'S GRACE SAYS, LET GO OF YOUR ANGER

A. THE _____ MAN AND THE GRACE OF GOD

- ▶ Jonah's anger had made him totally unreasonable!
 - He totally missed the great things that God was doing.
 -
 -
- > There was grace everywhere he looked and he missed it all!
 - 4:3, 9b

Question → What is wrong with this man?

• 4:2

- ▶ He was running away from the grace of God.

God's grace says I can let go of my anger about _____

CONCLUSION: Jonah knew he was running away but he couldn't stop!

COMMUNION QUESTIONS: Will you stop running? Will we stop clinging to worthless idols? Will we let go of our plans, our fears, our anger?