



Mancelona Camp: The Book of Jonah

David Gallimore gave an overview of the Book of Jonah at Mancelona Camp. Gallimore was a pastor for 20 years. He is now fulfilling a lifelong dream as he answers God's call into Evangelism. He has held hundreds of evangelistic meetings around the world. His writings have appeared in many publications.

Gallimore subtitled his introduction to Jonah as, "The Rebel That God Used". He noted that the short book has only four chapters which could be summarized as follows:

- 1 - Running from God
- 2 - Repentance from the belly of a whale
- 3 - Second chance
- 4 - Miserable in the midst of revival

The short plot of the Book of Jonah is that God called Jonah to go to the city of Ninevah and preach repentance to them. Instead of going to Ninevah, Jonah took a boat and went in the opposite direction. When God brought a great storm to the sea, Jonah admitted to the sailors that it was probably because of his disobedience, so the sailors threw him overboard. A great fish swallowed Jonah, and while in the fish's belly Jonah repented, and the fish vomited Jonah unto land.

Jonah then went to Ninevah and preached repentance. The people of Ninevah responded well to his message and repented of their sins.

However, Jonah was unhappy with this result, so he sat on a hill overlooking the city, just waiting for God to destroy it.

However, God did not destroy it, which made Jonah unhappy.

Gallimore gave the historical context of the story. Ninevah was the capital city of Assyria, and the time is the height of the domain of Assyria.

The Assyrians were in effect terrorists. They raided the people of Israel, and committed horrific acts of violence against their Israelite captives, such as using them as human torches. They even carved their violent activities in stone.

Gallimore called them "Vile, bloodthirsty, evil". It is even possible, Gallimore said, that Jonah, or some of his family had been affected by the Assyrian raids.

So God was asking Jonah to show mercy and grace to these barbaric people who had oppressed his own people. So Jonah answered God's call by going in the opposite direction.

Gallimore believes that Jonah left with the idea that by the time God caught up with him, it would be too late and Ninevah would already be destroyed. However, God provided Jonah with a second chance, so Jonah, a prophet of God, went to Ninevah to preach repentance to them.

This introduction to Jonah teaches us that we cannot outrun God. He has a plan for our lives. "God's not through with you yet." It shows that even when we have been disobedient, God's message is the same: He's patient with us.

Help In The Time of Crisis

In his continuing study of Jonah, David Gallimore, Mancelona Camp Evangelist, dealt with Jonah's repentance.

Jonah admitted that God brought the storm because of his disobedience, and advised the sailors to throw him overboard. They finally did, and Jonah was swallowed by a great fish. (Gallimore thought it amusing that God might have said, "Let's have a fish catch a man.")

In the belly of the fish, Jonah relented and repented, agreeing to take God's message to the people of Ninevah, people he hated.

A crisis can actually be a good thing. We don't want to go through them, but they can move us closer to God.

As Gallimore said, we may not have been in the belly of a fish, but we have been in the pit. Perhaps we have neglected what the Lord wants us to do. It may be that we will have to pray a long time. But know, Gallimore stated, that God is still willing to use you when you are willing.

Jonah serves as the example. "*He said: In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me...*" (Jonah 2:2)

We also must be willing to call on God and repent. In repenting, Gallimore reminded the congregation, don't bargain with God. Agree to serve Him even if circumstances don't occur as we expect. "Praise God regardless of the outcome." With our lack of foresight, God's solution to our problems are better than we can imagine.

In summary, as with Jonah

- God's not done with you
- God can still use you
- There can still be repentance

Prayer and Praise Service

On Sunday, July 30, the Morning Service will be devoted to prayer and praise, following Sunday School at 10 a.m.

Afternoon Picnic and Polo

On Sunday afternoon beginning at 2:00 p.m., the church will be hosting a picnic for people attending the polo games. The picnic will be held at the Bliss Fire Hall Pavilion. The church will also be distributing bottles of water at the polo field.



Sixteen youth attended Mancelona Camp from Bliss. In the photo, the day's activities were water games. The building shows the youth restrooms and bath house. The new youth pavilion will be built behind this building.



Several adults from Bliss attended Mancelona Camp as well as the youth. This photo shows a couple of the Bliss camp sites.

August 2017

Bliss Missionary Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service			7:15 - Youth Bruce/Loretta Byard			Trustee Meeting 10:30
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service			7:15 - Youth Maxine Byard		Craig Spierling Wes Fay	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service		Casie Byard WMMC Business Meeting 10:30	7:15 - Youth		Randy Woodard	Dick/Linda Woodard Ben Smith
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service David/Ruth Forrester	Sam Cadwell		7:15 - Youth	Melissa Benzing		
27	28	29	30	31		
10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service			7:15 - Youth	Loretta Byard		

Let's Get Back to Jesus

David Gallimore, Mancelona Camp Evangelist, challenged the congregation to “Get Back To Jesus”.

Gallimore compared church history to the Mississippi River. He said that it begins as a clear stream coming from the ground in Minnesota, but that it gathers up sediment, chemicals, and other materials as a result of the people and animals living by it. So by the time the Mississippi River gets to the Gulf of Mexico, it is not pure as at the beginning.

The church, he said, is comparable. It has a long history, and many things have been added since the beginning with Jesus.

Even at the beginning of the church, people were trying to add their own ideas to the Gospel. In Philippians chapter 3, Paul warns them about the people who came teaching them that they had to follow the rituals established for the Jews.

Paul explained to the Philippians that if anyone could brag about being a good Jew, he could. He had followed all the rituals, been trained by the best teaching, and had shown great zeal in following the Jewish faith. He called himself “faultless”.

However, Paul continued, he considered all that he had done a loss. “... *I consider them garbage...*” (Philippians 3:8). As far as Paul was concerned all of his previous work, study, and zeal was worthless.

Paul repudiated all that for Christ, “...*not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the*

righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.” (Philippians 3:9)

Gallimore made a suggestion for “Getting back to Jesus.” The key, he said, to avoiding adding our own ideas to the Gospel like the Philippians were warned against, is simply to ask ourselves the question, “What in my life takes away from knowing Jesus”.

He added:

What dominates your time?

What takes your money?

How do you use your talents?

Answering those questions will help with a self evaluation of what you consider important in your life. Is Jesus central in these important things?

Gallimore noted that people in America rank in the top 10% of people in the world in terms of material possessions. He believes that our “stuff” takes too much of our time and energy. He reminded the congregation that “One day you’re going to die and your kids are going to have a yard sale. And a truck will be going to Goodwill or the Salvation Army with all that stuff.” Only Jesus can bring peace and deliverance.

Gallimore gave a closing illustration, showing his cell phone. He said that he does everything with his phone—schedule, dictation, video, photos, communication. Cell phones are a results of understanding electricity, which was not understood back in the days when Franklin discovered it.

In the same way, the power of Jesus has always been available, but we have to accept it. Jesus has the answer and the power. We have to “Get back To Jesus”.