

II Cor. 13:5 Self-Examination

Jonah?

We in [REDACTED] (class) are part of [REDACTED] Church. Each of us impacts the vitality of our church and its effectiveness in our community and to the ends of the earth.

We can consider the Book of Jonah from a historical perspective; or from the standpoint of how it might apply to others; or we can invite God to use it to call us to repentance - - *if* we need that.

Here are some statements/questions to help us examine ourselves. This is not to “judge” anyone else’s heart but to be honest about how well we think we are doing relative to what God expects of authentic followers of Jesus. Maybe we’ll decide we’re doing pretty well, but if we sense that we come up short, we might, as the more senior believers in our church, want to begin to intercede for each other and our body so that God would move among us in a way that brings change.

As I know my own heart and the culture of [REDACTED] Church, my sense is that:

1. I/we know the wonder of entering God’s holy presence as described in [Heb. 10:19-23](#). We know the voice of our Shepherd, Jesus, as He spoke of in [John 10:14-16](#). We listen for it and hear it regularly in life. We are “on the alert” as Jesus instructed us in [Mt. 24:42](#), and are actively preparing for His coming as in [Mt. 24-25](#).
2. The mindset of the saints of [Heb. 11:13-16](#) describes me and others of our church. We are willing to follow God as Abraham did. ([Heb. 11:8-10](#)) We actively consider Jesus’ words in [Luke 9:23-26](#) in decision making in life and when we face relational and other challenges. We know that various trials are a necessary part of proving our faith ([I Peter 1:6-9](#)), so we respond to them in the spirit of [James 1:2-4](#).
3. The [Gal. 5:22-24](#) Fruit of the Spirit describes me and most people in our church, and so do the Beatitudes of [Mt. 5:3-11](#). Because I/we practice the principle of [Philip. 4:4-7](#) we are known in our community as those who have God’s peace in life. The “stimulating one another to love and good deeds” of [Heb. 10:24](#) is actively practiced here. The unsaved in our community know that we are Jesus’ disciples because of the way that we love each other. ([John 13:34-35](#))
4. I/we take the Great Commission ([Mt. 28:18-20](#)) seriously. It is an important factor as we consider career/job options, where we live, how we use our time, what we do with the

various gifts and resources that God has entrusted to us, and what we (will) do in “retirement.” We live with the sense of being sent into the world, as Jesus was sent into the world. ([John 17:18](#)) The Father’s purpose of making Himself and His salvation known to the lost is what we are “about” in life. We have a knowledge of and regularly experience the spiritual gifts ([I Cor. 12](#)) as we go about serving God.

5. [Matthew 6:19-24](#) describes my/our attitude toward money and possessions. We trust God to supply our needs ([Philip. 4:19](#)). We are free of worry about our future and pour resources into making God known to the ends of the earth, even to the extent that we might be vulnerable in the future if God didn’t come through as our Provider.

6. Our homes confirm the truths of [Eph. 5:22-33](#), because our husbands love their wives as Christ loved the Church and our wives submit to their husbands. Our husbands are the servant-leaders in our homes. We are known to our neighbors as those who only use our mouth to speak wholesome words that can edify others. No complaining, no gossip, no slander, no angry, selfish outbursts. ([Eph. 4:29](#))

In conclusion, when it is all said and done:

A) I believe that I/we at [REDACTED] Church are actually doing pretty well and that God would probably send Jonah somewhere else;

or

B) We need a “Jonah.” I/we would welcome our pastors preaching a message of repentance. We invite them to be direct about how our love for the world shapes our lives and to be specific about ways that we need to change in the affections of our hearts, and in the practical ways that we live out what it means to be an authentic follower of Jesus.

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