

Father's Day:

Happy Father's Day! I want to thank all the Fathers of this church for the precious gift they are to their families and River Rock Church. As a dad I know the hours and the energy that is spent in loving, caring for, and raise children, and even though some of that sacrifice may receive little notice here on earth God sees and honors it all. I want to encourage you to continue on to form deeper bonds with your family and to not loose sight of the fact that the love we show our kids as a reflection of the love our heavenly Father has for us. And for those who mourn on Father's day because their Father is absent or didn't live up to that title I hope you know that you are loved and cared for by your heavenly Father and my prayer is that God is raise up in this church good men who can come around you and support you and truly reflect the character and love of God.

After the service please come up and grab some pops for pops

Now I would like to invite all the Father's to stand and Becky is going to say a prayer.

Communion:

In 1 Corinthians 11 its says...

Paul says that whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Now we hear this phrase so often that the utter absurdity of what Paul is saying is lost on us. Why would we proclaim the death of our God? Why would we point to the roman torture device called a cross and say that somehow say there is our eternal hope. But when Jesus died he didn't suffer for nothing he willingly went to the cross and died a brutal death in our place because our sins our rebellion against God merits death. We were created to live in a loving relationship with God the giver of life and when we choose to step outside that relationship, when we choose to worship ourselves and our selfish desires instead of God we choose death instead of life. But Jesus died in our place to free us from the power of sin and death and then he rose in victory so that we may have life. If you have been following the Acts reading we talked about two weeks ago you should have read through Acts chapter 6. Well in Acts 5 the apostles are

arrested for performing miracles and preaching the Gospel. But then an angel opens up the jail gates and he tells them in Acts 5:20...(read).

Not a life of luxury, not a life of safety, a life lived in a loving relationship with God the creature of the universe.

We proclaim the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ because its only by His sacrifice and by His victory that we can live as we were created to live and begin now a life with God that extends into eternity. So as the elements are passed around I invite you to get together with the people in your row and the people over hear join a row to your right and pray together ask God to forgive you of sins, praise and thank him for his life death and resurrection and ask that he would empower you with his holy spirit to life the life he won for you.

And if you do not have a personal relationship with Jesus I invite you to right now say a simple prayer and say “Lord Jesus I know that I am a sinner that I have chosen to rebel against you by following my own selfish desire. I know that I need your saving grace. Thank you that you for dyeing on the cross for my sins and for rising again in victory so I may have eternal life with you. Please forgive me of my sins, be the Lord of my life and empower me to live for you.”

After you have prayer together take the bread and the cup together and then when it seems like everyone has had finished we will end in prayer.

Juneteenth

Juneteenth is a celebration of the new found freedom of enslaved black men women in the united states. Even though Abraham lincons emancipation proclamation was issued in 1863 it wasn't until June 19th in 1865 that the enslaved people of Galveston Texas actually saw freedom from their slave masters. This wasn't because the slave masters didn't know that these people were supposed to be free they did know but it took the union army to come to their doorsteps and force them to free their slaves at the point of a gun for the people of Galveston Texas to actually be freed.

Now its only been in the last year or two that I became aware of Juneteenth but it's a beautiful recognition that all people are created in the image of

God and deserve freedom and it's a celebration of that eternal truth being lived out still imperfectly but to a greater degree on June 19th 1865.

Like I said I am still learning about the observance of Juneteenth but someone at River Rock pointed me to this great documentary that shows that talks about the history of Juneteenth and the relationship between Faith and Freedom. I watched it and fair warning some of the topics discussed and the images are graphic but its an honest look at the history of slavery and the brave men and women who propelled by their faith sought freedom for themselves and their communities. I would highly encourage you to take some time and watch it.

I also wanted to share a prayer as we celebrate freedom and seek to live in a way that reflects the love of God for all people...

Jonah 1:1-17 The Prophet and the Pagans

Introduction:

Chapter one of Jonah almost sounds like the beginning of a joke "So a prophet boarded a ship with a bunch of Pagans." Jonah is very different from many of the minor prophets in fact some people wouldn't even consider it to be part of the minor prophets because it changes the angle through which we see God's work through the prophets by focusing not on the message or the nation being prophesied against but on the prophet himself. So as we look at Jonah chapter one today we are going to get a glimpse into his relationship with God and see why it's important for us today and what it tells us about the presence of God.

Jonah 1:1-2

- Setting and conflict introduced
- What can we tell about the setting?
 - Jonah in 2 Kings 14
 - During the reign of King Jeroboam II

- 760BC
 - Israel Wealth
 - Wickedness increased
 - Assyria weakened
 - Unique setting in the prophets we have looked at
- What is the conflict?
 - Assyria is still an enemy
 - 500 miles away
 - Jonah will say more later

Transition: So God comes to Jonah and tells him to prophesy to Nineveh and Jonah reacts pretty poorly...

Jonah 1:3-5

- Jonah decides to flee from the presence of God
 - Western most point
 - Common thought
 - Poor theology
 - Lying to himself
 - Mistake that some scholars make
- Begins his descent into the depths
 - Down to Joppa
 - Down into the ship
 - Down into the bottom of the ship
 - Down into a deep sleep
- Meanwhile...
 - Raging storm
 - Tossing their cargo
 - Each man praying to his god
 - Jonah is sleeping
 - Willful blindness
 - Blind to heart of God
 - Blind to the power of God
 - Blind to the threat surrounding him
- Letting bills pile up
- Amazing illustration of our thought patterns when we rebel against God

- Very rarely do we sin because we don't know it's a sin
 - But we dive into willful blindness by justifying it
 - Or trick ourselves into thinking our sins will never catch up to us.

Transition: Eventually the Sailors realize that Jonah is just sleeping in the bottom of the boat and they come down to get him...

Jonah 1:6-9

- “How is it that you are sleeping”-Hebrew its much more biting “What do you think your doing O sleeper?”
- Funny enough its this pagan captain who calls Jonah to return to God
 - God does this often
- Cast lots
 - Biblical text unclear
 - Jar with objects
- Lot falls on Jonah
- Kind of ironic
 - Doesn't speak until basically he has no choice
 - He makes this proclamation about who he is and what he believes but his actions don't match up
 - Perhaps that why he doesn't say his occupation.

Transition: Jonah finally comes clean and so now they have to decide what to do with him...

Jonah 1:10-13

- You get this contrast between Jonah and the pagan sailors
 - payment

Transition: After they have lost their cargo have been battling the storm for awhile the storm is just getting worse and worse so they together call on the Lord...

Jonah 1:14-17

- Okay God if this is what you want we will but don't hold it against us
- Why didn't Jonah jump?
 - Wonder if by this time Jonah had changed his mind
- God stops the pagan sailors worshiped the one true God.
- Meanwhile Jonah has sunk to the depths of the sea
 - God sends a giant fish to swallow him and he lives in the belly of the fish for 3 days and 3 nights

Conclusion: So as we conclude our first part in Jonah we have to ask the question why is this important? What does Jonah teach us about our the presence of God

- God's presence is not dependent on our prosperity
- God's presence is not dependent on our perfection
 - 1 corinthians 14 Follow the way of love
- God's presence includes a beautiful plan for our lives.

If you right now feel distant from God know this truth God has not abandoned you He is present he is pursuing you with His love. Before we question the nearness of God we need to first examine our lives and ask if we are fleeing God by justifying sin or by distracting ourselves with the business of life.

Next week we are going to look at Jonah chapters 3-4 and see what happens when Jonah gets back on track and if your main reference for Jonah is how its told in a children's Bible then the ending will be pretty surprising.

Before we close in prayer I do have some homework for you.

Due to time we will not be covering Jonah's prayer in chapter 2 so I encourage you to read that this week and compare what Jonah says about himself and his relationship with God in the prayer with how he described in

the rest of the book. I talk to a lot of people who I will say to them read this or do this and when we come back together the either rushed through it minutes before or never read it. So if that is you I challenge you to read it tonight. I try my best to listen to the Holy Spirit and give you a message that enriches your relationship with God and honors the time sacrifice you make to come to church on Sunday but a handful of verses or a couple handful of sometimes on a Sunday morning is not enough if we desire to continue to know God more fully, love him more deeply, and better reflect God's love as we serve others.

So I would encourage you if you struggle with procrastination to plan to do it right away .