Sabbath Afternoon, October 28

Memory Text:

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." Isaiah 6:8, NKJV

"God's message for the inhabitants of earth is today, 'Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.' Matthew 24:44. The world is in confusion, growing in society, and especially in the great cities of the nations, more wicked than the cities of the plain. The Lord is preparing to visit them in judgment. Angels are hastening to and fro, as if some great work were to be done. Angels are preparing for the destroying of Sodom, and become sanctified through obedience to the laws of the Father. Angels, if possible, are about to be sent from Christ in God of the decisive to overcome." PK 278.2

Sunday, October 29

Our Excuses: Fear

Read Nahum 1:7, Isaiah 41:10, 13, Luke 12:32, and Hebrews 10:35-37. What are the three promises given to Nineveh and the relationship between Assyria and Nineveh? What are the three promises given to God's people today, and what are the conditions?

Jonah's whole experience could be a type of God's people with a message that they were to proclaim to the world, and that a type of what we have to do in our day. Jonah's mission was, "Go, preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee." Verse 2. "So the prophet thought of the difficulties and seeming impossibilities in the way of his fulfilling the mission committed to him. He was in a strange country, among a people who were the bitterest enemies of his own nation. The message which he was to bear was of a character to try the most courageous. The moment that the God whom he served was at war with the people to whom he was sent with a message, he was tempted to think that his mission was impossible. He was seized with a great dread, and he 'rose up to flee unto Tarshish.' Going, he knew, and finding there a ship ready to sail, he paid the fare thereof and went down into it, to go with them." Verse 3. PK 266.2

God had prepared the fish to swallow up Jonah because he was determined that Jonah should be the one to take the message to Nineveh and Jonah, not at all inclined to go, was in a "strange country, among a people who were the bitterest enemies of his own nation." Jonah was in a place where God wanted him to go. The prophet's mission was to be the one who was to take the message to Nineveh. Jonah, in fact, he is caused his reaction to a degree his need of the fish he needed that he was gone without God's knowledge.

Monday, October 30

Our Excuses: False Views

Read Jonah 2:1, 3-10. What do these verses reveal about how Jonah started to understand God's mercies?

"In the charge given him, Jonah had been entrusted with a message of mercy, and he had been sent among a people able to sustain his servant and grant him success. But the prophet despised opportunity. He had been sent to a people spared many latter experiences, and would have been spared many more if they had not been so wicked as to reject the warnings of God. Jonah was well acquainted with strange providences, the prophet's mission was to Israel and God in his infinite power was able to make Israel hear."

"If, when the call first came to him, Jonah had stopped to consider the matter, he would have seen how foolish it was for any effort on his part to escape the responsibility resting upon him. The Lord had made the prophet to go on ordinated in his mind flight. The Lord sent out a tempest, and the mariners, who had been heathen, were astonished with the tempest, and they were afraid. The mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship to lighten it unto them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; he was laid down, and was fast asleep." PK 267.1

"So the prayers of the men who had worshiped false gods were heard. The God of Israel was not to be trifled with. Jonah represented to the mariners the character of the God whom the storm bestowed the anger of that project, because of the sin. Jonah was the cause of the storm. The prophet said, "Take me, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea cease from you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you." Verse 12. PK 267.2

Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land, but they could not; for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them. Wherefore they cried unto the Lord, and said, We beseech Thee, O Lord, we beseech Thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for Thou, O Lord, hast done as it pleased Thee. So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, and made vows." PK 268.4

"He said Jonah had learned that "Salvation belongs unto the Lord." Jonah had learned that God was merciful, that He was being grace of God, that God was merciful, and released from the perils of the mighty deep and was upon the dry land." PK 269.3

Tuesday, October 31

Our Excuses: Inconvenience

Read Jonah 3. How did the people respond to what Jonah had preached? What lessons are here for us today?

After Jonah came on shore following his experience in the fish, he was in a place where God wanted him to go, and he evidently is saved or there would have been no need for God to be sent. He is in the place where God wanted Nineveh saved. At this Jonah should have taken the message to Nineveh, but he was not at all inclined to go. He was in a place where God wanted him to go.

Nineveh, you remember, repented and proclaimed a fast, and God saw their repentance and forgiven them. He repented, but Jonah did not know it. Jonah must have been disappointed and perhaps even angry with God. The prophecy to pass that he was with the salvation of the city. So he measured his prophecy by the city's fate, which is just a place rather than repenting and being saved. Jonah was disappointed.

God knew that Jonah is not interested in your selfish desires and God knew that Jonah was not in the place he wanted to be and God knew that Jonah was not in the place God wanted him to be.

Matt. 11:28-30 - "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take thy yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."

Always remember that God has not given you rest. Take thy yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."

"Dwell thou with Me: fear not: for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am your God: I will strengthen you; yea, I will help you; yea, I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness." Isa. 41:10. "Behold, I will bring health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth. And I will cause the captives of Judah and the captives of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first. And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against Me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned against Me, and whereby they have transgressed against Me." Jer. 33:6-8. "Fear thou not, O Jacob, and thou worm Israel; I will help thee, saith the Lord, and your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel." Isa. 41:14. "Behold, I will do with thy afflicters at that time: and I will save the halt, and gather the outcast, and I will get them praise and fame in every earth. Even at the time I will bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I bring back your captivity before your eyes, saith the Lord." Zeph. 3:19, 20.

"God's message for the inhabitants of earth today, 'Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.' Matthew 24:44. The conditions prevailing in the world are such that the Lord is preparing to visit them in judgment. Angels are hastening to and fro, as if some great work were to be done. Angels are preparing for the destroying of Sodom, and become sanctified through obedience to the laws of the Father. Angels, if possible, are about to be sent from Christ in God of the decisive to overcome." PK 278.2

Wednesday, November 1

Our Excuses: Uncomfortable Confrontations

Read Jonah 4. What was wrong with this man?

"When Jonah learned of God's purpose to spare the city of Nineveh, he was displeased. He had been sent to speak in sackcloth and ashes to the people, that they might be led to repose because of God's amazing grace, but instead he allowed his mind to become so filled with the idea of his being regarded as a false prophet, jealous of his reputation, that he was unable to appreciate the mercy of God in sparing the city. He was so filled with the love of God toward the repentant Nineveh. 'Displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry.' Verse 1. He was angry, he says, because he expects his own business cared for. Know that God's mercies are not to be measured by our selfish interests. Jonah's unchangeable mercies are many, and the mercies of God are not to be measured by our selfish interests." PK 269.1

"Once more he yielded to his inclination to question and criticize God's ways, and he became displeased and discouraged. Looking right of the interests of others, and looking at his own selfish interests, he said, 'I pray thee, O Lord, my Lord, is this not my saying, while I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled unto Tarshish: for I knew that Thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest Thee of the evil.' Jonah 4:1, 2. PK 269.2

"Jonah was not of the angry? the Lord inquired. "Sit Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there he made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what should become of the city. And the Lord God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be shadow over his head to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd." Verses 5, 6. PK 269.3

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Thursday, November 2

Here Am I, Send Me

Read Isaiah 6:1-8. What is the central idea expressed in this passage?

"God's commandments in the great cities are not become discouraged over the wickedness, the rejection, the contempt, the ridicule, the opposition, the persecution, endeavoring to accomplish the work of God. The Lord would cheer every such worker with the same encouragement with which He cheered the prophet Ezekiel. "Son of man, fear not, but speak, and hold not your peace: for I am with thee, saith the Lord God." Verse 26. "Son of man, I will make your forehead as an adamant and as a flint: fear not, nor be dismayed, though they be a rebellious house." Verse 9. "Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all words that I shall speak unto thee receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. For go, speak unto the house of Israel." Verse 10. "Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them." Verse 11. "Moreover the spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me a voice of a great rushing, saying, Blessed be the glory of the Lord from his place." Verse 12. "So the spirit lifted me up, and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the Lord was strong upon me." Verse 14. "Then I came to the captivity at Tel-abib, that dwell by the river Chebar, and I sat where they sat, and remained there astonished among them seven days." Verse 15. "Son of man, I have made you a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me." Verse 17. "Nevertheless, if you warn the wicked of his wickedness, and he does not turn from his wickedness, he shall die in his sin, but you have delivered your soul." Verse 19. "Then I will make your tongue to cleave to the roof of your mouth, that you shall be dumb, and not be a reprover: for they are a rebellious house." Verse 26. "But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God: He that hears, let him hear; and he that forbears, let him forbear: for they are a rebellious house." Verse 27. PK 278.1

"God's message for the inhabitants of earth today, 'Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.' Matthew 24:44. The conditions prevailing in the world are such that the Lord is preparing to visit them in judgment. Angels are hastening to and fro, as if some great work were to be done. Angels are preparing for the destroying of Sodom, and become sanctified through obedience to the laws of the Father. Angels, if possible, are about to be sent from Christ in God of the decisive to overcome." PK 278.2