

THE FISHY PROPHET

Jonah 1: 1 - 16



Who is Jonah?

- Recorded in 2 Kings 14:25
 - Son of Amittai
 - Prophet of Gath-Hepher
 - Northern kingdom prophet – Jeroboam II

- Minor prophet (prophet to the nations)
 - Sent by God to the Nineveh to pronounce judgement



Approaching Jonah

- A reflection of the Christian Walk
 - Chapter 1 – Running **from** God
 - Chapter 2 – Running **to** God
 - Chapter 3 – Running **with** God
 - Chapter 4 – **Run-in** with God

Theme:

Disobedience of a Prophet & The Mercy of God

Main Message:

Understanding God's Calling & Mercy

Jonah 1: 1-3 (Jonah Runs)

1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: **2** “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

3 But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

Nineveh

- Capital of Assyria (Israel's enemy)
 - later conquers Israel in 722BC
- Center of the World
- An empire known for its evil ways and violence. (Nahum 3)



Does Nineveh deserve God's mercy?



(Spain)

“Ends of the earth”

Tarshish

(Iraq)

Nineveh

Gath-Hepher

Joppa

2500 miles

550 miles

Jonah 1: 4 - 6

⁴Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. ⁶The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.”

The storm

- Sent by God
- Experienced sailors recognized that particular storm is an act of God.
- Pagan sailors cry to their gods for salvation.
- Yahweh's prophet falls asleep not affected by the storm.



Jonah 1: 7 - 10

⁷ Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the **lot fell on Jonah.**

⁸ So they asked him, “Tell us, **who is responsible for making all this trouble for us?** What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”

⁹ He answered, “**I am a Hebrew** and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

¹⁰ This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (**They knew he was running away from the LORD,** because he had already told them so.)

Jonah 1: 11 - 12

¹¹ The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “**What should we do** to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

¹² “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. **I know that it is my fault** that this great storm has come upon you.”

Who is responsible?

- Jonah is identified as the cause and confronted.
- Jonah aligns his identity first as a Hebrew before he aligns his identity as worshiper of Yahweh.
- The sailors start to realize that Jonah has offended his God.



What to do?

- Act of righteous sacrifice?
- Jonah's heart is hardened to God's will.
- What should Jonah's response be?



Does Jonah deserve God's mercy?

Jonah 1: 13 - 16

¹³ **Instead**, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before.

¹⁴ Then they cried out to the **LORD**, “Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. **Do not hold us accountable** for killing an innocent man, for you, LORD, have done as you pleased.”

¹⁵ Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm.

¹⁶ At this the men **greatly feared the LORD**, and they **offered a sacrifice** to the LORD and **made vows** to him.

Conversion of the sailors

- The sailors learn that they cannot run away from God.
- So, they run to Yahweh and plead for their lives
- Yahweh's sovereignty over nature displayed; the pagan sailor's heart were converted.
- True repentance of hearts



The sailors witnessed God's mercy

Quick Recap

- Disobedience of the Prophet:

- Running away from God's calling
- Resistance to repentance

- God's mercy

- God's mercy pursues through discipline
- While Jonah sleeps spiritually, God awakens everyone else
- God's heart and love for the nations displayed.

Understanding God's Mercy

- Jonah's disobedience
 - Fails to understand the mercy of God
 - To him salvation only for the Jews, not the gentiles
- Jonah's run
 - The storm is God's mercy towards Jonah
 - But Jonah hardens his heart, chooses to end his life.
- Who understood God's mercy?
 - Contrast between the prophet & pagan sailors

What is God's Mercy?

Ephesians 2 : 4 - 5

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved

Jesus the better prophet?

Dealing with our Nineveh's

You can run, But you can't hide



**You can run from
God**



**But you can't outrun
His mercy in the storm**



the
storms
of
life



**How to respond in
faith?**

**Do you see God in
the storm?**

Beware or spiritual slumber

A man is shown sleeping on the ground, leaning against the trunk of a large tree. He is wearing a light-colored t-shirt and dark shorts. A book is placed on his forehead, and his hands are clasped in his lap. The scene is set outdoors with sunlight filtering through the leaves, creating a dappled light effect on the ground and the tree trunk.

- **Numbness to God's voice**
- **Unbothered by sin**
- **Disengaged from God's mission**

Are you running away from God's ministry?

If so WHY?

**“Spectators of the Kingdom? Or
Spirit filled participants in it”**

