

JUST LIKE JONAH

Jonah – Part 1

ON TV: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, **Jonah**, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “...Forty more days and Nineveh will be **destroyed**.” Jonah 3:4

ON TV: “Jeroboam II recovered the territories of Israel between Lebo-hamath and the Dead Sea, just as the Lord, the God of Israel, had promised **through Jonah, son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath-hepher**.” 2 Kings 14:25

ON TV: Jonah was from Gath-hepher, which means “**the winepress of the well**.”

ON TV: “The rest of the events in **Jehoash’s reign** and everything he did, including the extent of his power and his war with Kim Amaziah of Judah, are recorded in the Book of History of the Kings of Israel.” 2 Kings 14:15

ON TV: Jonah lived during the reign of **Jeroboam II of Northern Israel**.

ON TV: Jonah’s story takes place around **760 BC**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “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**. Jonah 1:1-3

ON TV: He runs, **not toward** God or His assignment, but **away from Him**.

ON TV: “7 O Lord...**where can I go** from your Spirit? **Where can I flee** from your presence? 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. 9 If I rise on the winds of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, 10 even there your hand will guide me...” Psalm 139:7-10

ON TV:

- Jonah is referred to by many people as the “**the reluctant prophet**.” His name means **dove** or the **peaceful one**.
- His Father’s name is “**Amittai**” which means “**Truth**.”
- **Nineveh** was the city that he was commanded to go and preach to. It was the **capital of Assyria** and Israel’s **number one enemy**.

ON TV: “**The word of the LORD** came to Jonah, the son of Amittai...” Jonah 1:1a

ON TV: “In the beginning was **the Word**, and the Word was **with God**, and the Word **was God**. 14 **The Word became flesh and dwelt among us**...” John 1:1, 14a

ON TV/OUTLINE: When God speaks to us, He will often ask us to do things we don’t **WANT** to do.

ON TV: “Go to the great city of Nineveh and **preach against it**, because its wickedness has come up before me.” Jonah 1:2

ON TV: There’s a little bit of Jonah **in all of us**.

ON TV: Delayed obedience is really **disobedience**. The mark of spiritual maturity is revealed in our **lag time**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: Whenever God does speak to us, we can always find a boat sailing in the **WRONG DIRECTION**.

ON TV: “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.*”
Jonah 1:3

ON TV: We’re not really running, we’re **drifting**.

ON TV:

- After 100 yards, you’ll be off by **5.2 feet**. Not huge, but noticeable.
- After a mile, you’ll be off by **92.2 feet**. One degree is starting to make a difference.
- If you veer off course by 1 degree flying around the equator, you’ll land almost **500 miles off target!**
- **Bottom Line:** Small actions, accumulated over time make a **huge difference**.

ON TV: When we disobey the commands of God **intentionally or even unintentionally**, we are drifting.

ON TV/OUTLINE: God may allow a storm to grab our **ATTENTION**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “Then the LORD *sent a great wind* on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up.” Jonah 1:4

ON TV/OUTLINE: “Jonah answered them and said, ‘I am a Hebrew and *I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the 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 1:9-10

ON TV: It’s a **cultural** Christianity. It’s **consumer** religion.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “‘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.” Jonah 1:12

ON TV/OUTLINE: Jonah’s worst nightmare was exactly what he **NEEDED**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “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. 17 But the LORD *provided a great fish* to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.” Jonah 1:15-17

ON TV/OUTLINE: We **DO** what He asks.

ON TV/OUTLINE: We **WORSHIP** Him.

ON TV/OUTLINE: We change our **LIFESTYLE**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.” Ecclesiastes 5:5

ON TV/OUTLINE: We make a commitment to **LEARN** more about God.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “...*Grow in the grace and knowledge* of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...” 2 Peter 3:18

ON TV/OUTLINE: We commit to **COMMUNITY** with other people.

ON TV/OUTLINE: We choose to **TRUST** Him with whatever is troubling us.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him...”
Romans 8:28a

ON TV/OUTLINE: “At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.” Jonah 1:16

ON TV: God may allow us to face our worst nightmare, but understand, it’s all because **He loves us**, because **He has something for us to do**.