

Next four weeks we are going to study the book of Jonah – Story of a prophet gone awry

- But its more than that...it's a story of the Power of Repentance – **What is repentance?**
Repentance = Turning from sin and turning toward God

Im sure you're all a bit familiar with the story of Jonah – Veggie Tales – He's the fish guy
Four weeks of - I don't wanna – Well you're gonna – Fine I will – But I won't like it
Jonah mid 700's BC - Jeroboam II – Kings 14 'Did what was wicked in the eyes of the Lord'
Jonah is commanded to go to Nineveh...not a great ask to make of a person...Nineveh nasty

- 1 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,² “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.”
- Jonah is a prophet – Speak for the Lord and do what the Lord tells you...Not great
 - He's from Gath-hepher in Israel – Near where Nazareth is today – Name means 'Dove'
 - Book of Jonah is satire...doesn't have a Disney ending...but it is funny all the way through
 - It's a story of a man who thinks he can run from the commands of God...is wrong
- Have you ever thought you could run from God? Silly notion...God will do what God will do

Big Idea - Consider the cost of running from God

- What is running from God? Jonah physically runs...Not doing what God commands
- When God says 'A' you do "B,C, and D" – Always rooted in 'I know better than God'
1. **When God calls, don't take it lightly (1-6)**

1 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.”³ But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

Phone call you don't want to answer? Boss on a Saturday...Mother-in-Law...Live Grenade

- This is a phone call no one wants to get...Go to Nineveh...not like to Alamogordo
 - This is like saying, 'Go to North Korea and have a conversion chat with Kim Jong Un'
 - Assyria is largest kingdom - longtime enemies of Israel, – they will take over NK.
 - Assyrians = Awful - Artwork = war – execution - impalement - flaying skin - beheadings.
 - Nineveh was the capital → Enter the city, heads of their enemies on sticks – fear + hate
- ⇒ The Lord has called Jonah to this place to call out their evil...does anyone want that job?

Instead of doing as the Lord had commanded...Jonah went in the opposite Direction **MAP**

Crazy statement away from the presence of the Lord. – Where are you going? **OJ**

When the lord calls you don't get up and go the opposite way...why?

a. **Obedience is not optional (v1-4)**

⁴ But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up.

Did Jonah get away from the presence of the Lord? Jonah angers the Lord
While Jonah is on the boat and the Lord sends a storm to rock the boat...what the Lord does

- People look at obedience to Lord as an ala carte menu...take some and pass on some
- **People get arrested** – Argue with police – Window smashed, Tased, handcuffs
They don't know who's in charge – Jonah ran because he thought he was in charge

When the Lord gives commands and we disobey there are consequences

- Jonah is getting his boat rocked...have you ever had your boat rocked by the Lord?
You are not going to be told to go to Nineveh...or possibly anywhere else
- **What commands are you ignoring from the Lord? Live at peace? Give?** **MORE**

Talking with a pastor about a large church...policy about marrying people co-habiting

To live life with the most possible satisfaction listen when the Lord speaks

b. **Opposition harms everyone (v5-6)**

⁵ Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. ⁶ So the captain came and said to him, “What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish.”

Look at what Jonah's disobedience did to the people around him...pagan mariners punished

- They are in a full-blown panic and Jonah is asleep in the lower decks...before Ambian
Other people are suffering because of the sin of Jonah...he's so fine with disobedience nap
Disobedience doesn't just distance us from God—it dulls us to Him.

I think the effect of loving someone who is in rampant disobedience to the Lord is obvious
Addict – Anger – Physical/Emotional/Spiritual Abuse – Pride – Thieves - Cheaters – Liars

- **These sins effect everyone around them...it's like you're on a ship with them...holes**
Don't Be That Guy – The guy who's sin is taking everyone down with him/her

2. **When God calls, don't delay repentance (v7-16)**

⁷ And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸ Then they said to him, “Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” ⁹ And he said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” ¹⁰ Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

- How funny is that...throw dice...Jonah has to be sweating that roll...**Press your Luck**
- They press him on who he is and he owns up to who he is – Hebrew – **Fear** – Creator
Pagans recognize the power of the Lord...look to Johan for help – **Boxing gloves pickle jar**

¹¹ Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. ¹² He said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.” ¹³ Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them.¹⁴ Therefore they called out to the Lord, “O Lord, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you.” ¹⁵ So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶ Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

- Most commentators don't see Jonah's act as one of heroism but of selfishness...Die
- Know what I love...they didn't push Jonah...they didn't have him jump...hurled him
Interesting to note...it is the pagans who repent not the prophet | Beauty from ashes
God can use disobedience for His glory—but that doesn't make disobedience good.
- **Many time we see Christians compromise conviction to try and win the lost...bad play**
- **Jonah needed to repent and return...not get hurled off a boat**
Martin Luther's first thesis was: 'The entire life of the believer is one of repentance'

4 Steps of Repentance:

- Know** – Ask God to show you your sin and listen
- Confess** – Own it. No excuses. Don't minimize, compare, wallow, point-the finger – confess & accept His grace.
- Stop & Turn** – Stop going in the direction of sin and turn around.
- Act Now** – Don't say, “Tomorrow.” Don't delay because delayed repentance doesn't make the storm stop—it makes it stronger.

Look what running from God cost Jonah – Consider the Cost of running for God