

Jonah 1:1-17 NKJV ... Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.” 3 But Jonah arose 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 from the presence of the LORD. 4 But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. 5 Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep. 6 So the captain came to him, and said to him, “What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish.” 7 And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 Then they said to him, “Please tell us! For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” 9 So 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, “Why have you done this?” For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. 11 Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?”—for the sea was growing more tempestuous. 12 And he said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me.” 13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them. 14 Therefore they cried out to the LORD and said, “We pray, O LORD, please do not let us perish for this man’s life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O LORD, have done as it pleased You.” 15 So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. 16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the LORD and took vows. 17 Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV ... Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Lessons From the Man who Ran
(Aka the Prodigal Prophet)

 **1. Running from God means refusing to surrender our will to His.**

- **Jonah 1:3** NKJV ... But Jonah arose 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 from the presence of the LORD And the text says Jonah.
Notes:

 **2. We all have our reasons for running.**

- **Hebrews 10:25** NKJV ... not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
- **Proverbs 11:24** Msg ... The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.
- **Ephesians 4:31-32** NKJV ... Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
Notes:



3. When We Run It Always Leads To Dangerous Places.

- **Acts 26:14 NKJV** ... ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.
- **Acts 26:14 NLT** ... Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is useless for you to fight against my will.
- **Jonah 1:4-6 NKJV** ... But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. 5 Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep. 6 So the captain came to him, and said to him, “What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish.”

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4. When we run from God we always hurt the people closest to us.

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5. Running Reveals The Depth of Our Commitment to Christ.

- **Jonah 1:7-9 NKJV** ... And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 Then they said to him, “Please tell us! For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?”
- **Jonah 1:9 NKJV** ... “I am a Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”
- **Mark 12:30 NKJV** ... And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.
- **Exodus 20:4-5 NLT** ... “You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. 5 You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God
- **Proverbs 4:23-24** ... NLT Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.
- **Luke 15:20** ... But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.
- **Jonah 1:4 NKJV** ... But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up
- **Jonah 1:17 NKJV**... Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

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