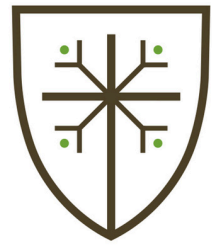


# GOD ON THE MARGINS

*A story of Jonah, Habakkuk, and Esther*

## SERMON NOTES



August 24, 2025

### SERMON INFO

#### TITLE

"Real Change"

#### PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

#### TEXTS

Jonah 1:8-17  
Philippians 4:10-14  
Luke 15:1-7

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways do you find yourself fleeing the face of God as Jonah did?
2. Like Jonah's witness to the sailors on the ship, how can our humility in repenting and returning to the Lord serve as a witness to His goodness and greatness?

### SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Tim continued our fall series looking at the book of Jonah, specifically, the possibility of real change in a person.

#### The Setup

We all run from the face of God. It is the first step in Christianity. Last week, we saw that Jonah's motivation for running from God is that he did not think the Ninevites were deserving of God's mercy and grace. Jonah can't see himself in the Ninevites. He can't see that his own need for God's grace is just as great as theirs. God sets up Jonah for failure because Jonah knew very little about his mercy and grace until he truly experienced it in his own failure. Only in our failure will the depth of God's love be revealed to us. We see this in Scripture. Across both the Old and New Testament, the greatest people in Scripture are the greatest failures. It was to be this way. To know God's grace, we must first know ourselves and our need for him.

#### The Beginning

As the storm rages around Jonah and the ship, the crew begin to interrogate him and he comes clean, confessing that he is running from God. The text says that the sailors were "exceedingly afraid" but Jonah is not. The sailors want to escape the consequences of what Jonah had done but Jonah has already turned from the storm of the Lord to the Lord himself. This is the beginning of true repentance, acknowledging that the main thing is what we've done to God. We must take our mind off of ourselves and place our heart's focus on God. If you're just dealing with the consequences, they will crush you. But once you make God bigger than the consequences, you begin to move out from their power over you.

Jonah finally realizes that no matter what he does, he can never escape God. He can never outrun the storm. And then, his heart ceases from raging even before the storm does. He faces the consequences of his running and is hurled into the sea, something that should've resulted in his death. But as we heard last week, suffering is never in vain for the Christian. God has chosen Jonah for a purpose and a mission, a mission for which he needed to truly know the depths of God's love and mercy. God plucks him up from the sea.

Like Jonah, Christ was also thrown into the sea of God's wrath in order to satisfy it for others. And he was the only one who truly experienced the death we all deserve, defeating it in his resurrection. We must turn our heart's focus to him, trusting in God's mercy, trusting in his joy over each of us just as he rejoiced to save Jonah.