

Sermon Outline - Sun, October 18th, 2020 – Finding Ninevah – Super Salty x 2
(Jonah 1:1-6;11-15; 1 Peter 4:7-11)

Overview – This month has been all about calling and the stories of the biblical figure of Jonah and the movie version of author JM Barrie as portrayed in the movie Finding Neverland. We have been working with the formula Calling = God’s Plan + Our gifts & experiences + Our Community of Engagement. Last week we talked about how finding the right community of engagement can help your calling to flourish and we were reminded that calling is not just about our jobs but our lives and all the ways we are called to engage.

Exegesis

- This week we turn back to the story of Jonah and the sermon title is Super Salty x 2.
- As a reminder Jonah runs away from his calling until he is thrown overboard and ends up sinking in the ocean until a big fish comes and swallows him up. He is physically as salty as it gets and in the belly of the fish he cries out to God thankful that he didn’t die, asking for forgiveness and making it clear that he is ready to do the right. Super Salty #1
- Then Jonah goes to Ninevah, the people repent in the most amazing fashion (it says they made sure that even their animals were part of the national fast)
- You would think that Jonah would be happy because they respond so well, but in Chap 4 he expresses his anger – he didn’t want God to help them.

Key Points –

1. **Sometimes we run from our calling because we actively don’t want God’s plan to happen** – Often we want manageable visions, and we don’t want to be pushed beyond our comfort zone. We don’t want radical transformation if it requires us to change. Jonah was all good with Ninevah going down so he runs from his calling.
2. **Saltiness towards our community of engagement can kill our calling** – Jonah was one of the G.O.A.T prophets in terms of his words leading to change, but because he could not extend grace to the Ninevites he found no peace in his calling and was even suicidal himself. Bitterness blocks you from walking fulling in your calling. When you cling to negative experiences they will often choke out the new growth in your life.
3. **Respond in the way God deserves** – What if Jonah thought about being obedient because of God’s grace to him rather than being against God extending grace to Ninevah. What if grace unlocks grace? (Example of Blood must have blood – the 100)

Jonah has a lot to teach us in this moment. Our country is divided and we end up wishing harm on each other. Can we commit to opening opportunities for radical transformation in the way we show grace to others. How can we love others as an outgrowth of the way God loves us?

Core Questions –

1. In your life who are “those people” who are beyond God’s grace? Is it someone close to you or folks you don’t even know?
2. Are there any spaces of saltiness or bitterness in your life that are blocking your flourishing?
3. In these next couple of weeks where are your opportunities to show grace?