

Jonah 1:1-3 Beyond Our Comfort
Calvary Chapel Titusville 9/27/26
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Jonah isn't just about a runaway prophet and a big fish.
It's about the heart of God colliding with the heart of man.

God's mercy sends us toward the very people we want to avoid.

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, (Jonah 1:1 NKJV)

The book begins with God, not Jonah.

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper [in the thing] for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11 NKJV)

When God speaks, He is not offering religious decoration.

He's calling for faith-filled obedience.

The evidence that we've heard God's Word is not inspiration, but obedience.

It is possible to be doctrinally informed and still spiritually resistant.

Knowing the truth isn't the same as a heart surrendered to the God of truth.

"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." (Jonah 1:2 NKJV)

God sends a warning because God is extending mercy.

The LORD [is] good to all, And His tender mercies [are] over all His works. (Psalm 145:9 NKJV)

"Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord GOD, "[and] not that he should turn from his ways and live? (Ezekiel 18:23 NKJV)

The God who sees sin also delights in showing mercy to repentant sinners.

Jonah's real struggle isn't with God's power. It's with God's compassion.

"for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10 NKJV)

We extend mercy freely when we remember how freely mercy was extended to us.

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. (Jonah 1:3 NKJV)

That's a warning for every one of us:

Spiritual activity is no substitute for surrendered obedience.

There is a cost to running from God.

Sin promises an escape, but there's always a price to pay.

He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes [them] will have mercy. (Proverbs 28:13 NKJV)

The farther we run, the more normal the running begins to feel.

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? (Romans 2:4 NKJV)

Jonah is resisting that goodness; he doesn't want it extended to Nineveh.

Jonah's story exposes our resistance; Jesus' story reveals God's rescue.

"Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. (Luke 6:36 NKJV)

The gospel does not simply forgive us; it sends us.

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." (John 20:21 NKJV)

The church can't treat mercy as something we receive but refuse to extend.

Jesus is the greater Jonah.

He didn't run from sinners; He came for sinners.

He didn't flee the storm; He entered it for us.

He didn't withhold mercy from His enemies;

He died and rose again to save them.