



# FIND YOUR VOICE

and "the tears of things"

# “What’s the word, Jonah!?”

“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.”



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# Choosing to Run

How to choose what to do  
for a God so far beyond us?



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# Choosing to Run

We have a million reasons to run when God speaks to us.

- Anger
- Fear
- **Shame**

Simply “going” doesn’t solve our heart problem.

The conditions of our soul must be a part of our journey.

**The Prophets show us ways to remain focused on God, even when we know we are missing something.**

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# What makes Jonah a prophet?

## A Call to Prophecy

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## **Hears God's words and shares them with God's people**

- “at this the men greatly feared the Lord and they offered sacrifice and made vows to him” -Jonah 1:16
- “who knows! God may yet relent” -Jonah 3:9

Assyria had humiliated Jonah's people,  
land, and his God.

2 Kings 18 & 19

- “Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their lands out of my hand, that the Lord should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?” ”

Nahum 3:1

- “Woe to the bloody city, all full of lies and plunder—no end to the prey!”

# Jonah 4:1-4:4

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. 2 And he prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord, **is not this what I said** when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; **for I knew that you are a gracious God** and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. 3 Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

4 And the Lord said, “Do you do well to be angry?”

# Jonah 4:8-11

...And he asked that he might die and said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” 9 But God said to Jonah, “Do you do well to be angry for the plant?” And he said, **“Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.”**

10 And the Lord said, **“You pity the plant**, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. 11 **And should not I pity Nineveh**, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

# Jonah's impact

God's attention to Nineveh doesn't break from His character. It is true to his character.

It is a **vision** of the kingdom to come. God **claims** Nineveh not only as needing correction, but **as God's own people**.

This is prophetic too - and Jonah might never have understood it.

**How difficult it is to be faithful to a vision we cannot understand.**

# Jesus' Postscript

Matthew 12:38-41

“An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.”

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# Jesus' Postscript

The "Sign of Jonah": THREE DAYS IN THE BELLY [or... Sheol]

**Jonah can't understand what God is doing: "It would be better for me to die than to live!"** and God continues to speak.

Jesus places Jonah, and us in His story. Jonah's resistance shows us how wild Jesus' death and resurrection for the sake of humanity is.

The greatest miracle is one of humility.

**And God says...aren't you all worth it?**

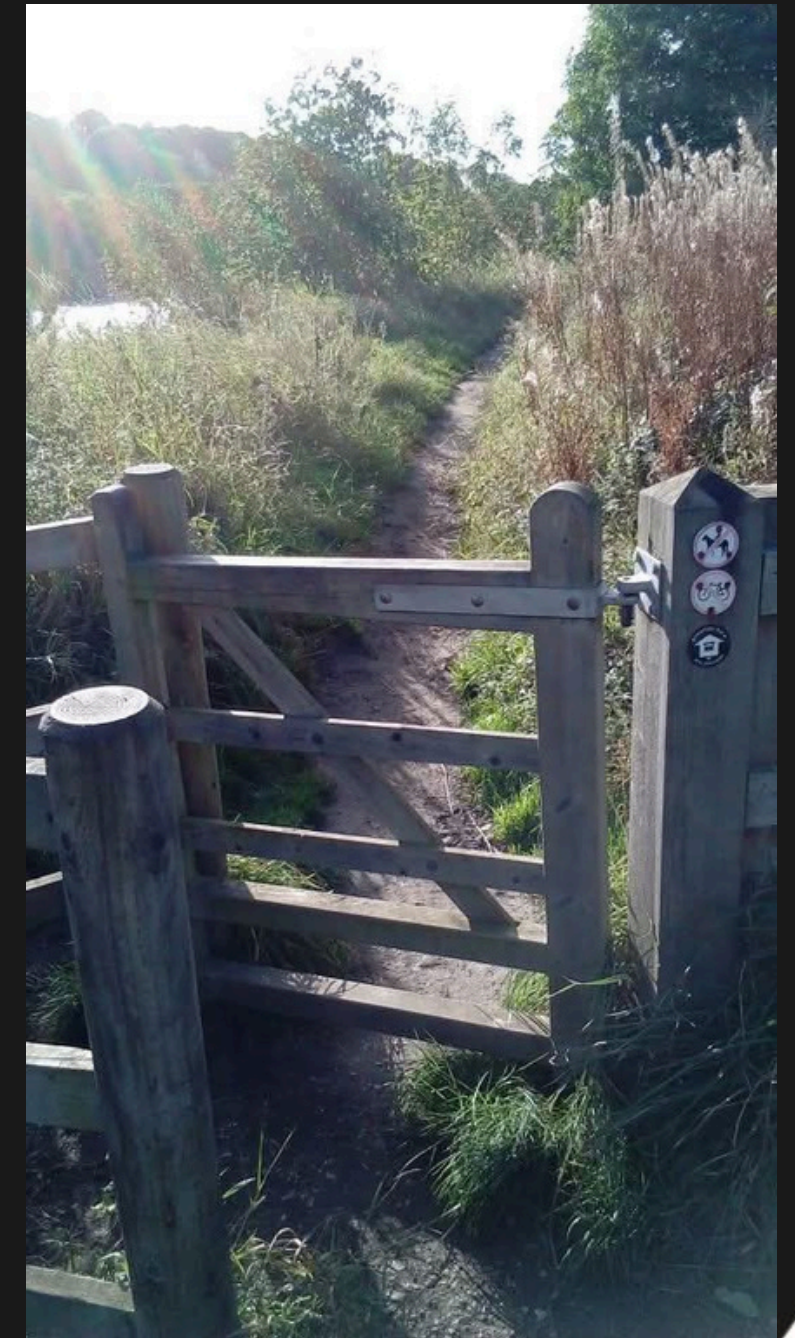
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The vision God offers the world in the prophets is one of a kingdom where God is perfectly faithful to this world.

This is endlessly discoverable in our lives, and is fulfilled in the person of Jesus.

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We are invited to live these journeys  
in discovery mode. Running away &  
running towards are not always so  
different. **That is good news.**



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Where does your life tell the story of faith, hope,  
and love?

Does your life speak God's faithfulness with a tone  
of finality? or of discovery?

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