



Day 1

Sermon Sentence: Even in your most desperate attempts to run from God, He is in desperate pursuit of you.

Read Jonah Chapter 1

When we read Jonah for the first time we ask ourselves, what's the big deal? Why did Jonah flee instead of doing what God asked of him? It seemed like a pretty straightforward request, go over there and tell these people to repent of their evil ways or I am going to destroy them. Well here is what is not so apparent from reading these first two verses, Nineveh is an ancient city located in what is Iraq today! These people were renown for their cruelty and torturous ways and not only that they were pagans!

So in summary, God was telling Jonah to travel to one of the largest pagan cities in the world full of cruel people and tell them that a god in which they didn't believe in was going to destroy them! Simple right?

Jonah's answer, flee!

Have you ever felt like Jonah, knowing that God is calling you to do something that frightens you or you think is impossible?

Did you run from it or face it?

What happens when we run from the will of God?

When Jonah fled he booked passage on a ship to Tarshish which was a city the opposite direction from where God instructed him to go and many months journey by ship. It is interesting to note that Jonah goes to the bottom of the ship and sleeps. The ship is almost immediately caught in a terrible storm and is in danger of sinking. It doesn't take long for the crew to identify Jonah as the reason and he is cast over the side into the sea. Jonah was then swallowed by a big fish and remained for 3 days and 3 nights.

Do you see the significance of moving to the lowest part of the ship and sleeping?

What happened to the ship's crew that was so significant after Jonah was cast overboard?



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Read Jonah Chapter 2

The book of Jonah has several archetypes in it, that are shadows of things to come. The fact that Jonah spent 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of the fish points forward to Jesus and His 3 days and 3 nights spent in the belly of the Earth. As a matter of fact Jesus makes direct reference to Jonah as the “only sign” that He would give to that adulterous generation. The fish is symbolic of death and Sheol (place of the dead). The sea is symbolic of baptism in water.

Chapter 2, we see Jonah at his lowest point, continuing outside the will of God he has sunk even further than the bottom of the ship. He is now at the bottom of the sea, in the belly of the fish and his spirit is reaching the point of accepting his condemnation.

When Jonah has reached his lowest point and his own will fails, Jonah says “I remembered the Lord”. He repents and pleads with the Lord to deliver him from his current circumstances. The Lord accepts Jonah’s prayers and commands the fish to spit Jonah up onto dry land!

Can you relate to reaching the lowest point in your life while trying to avoid God?

What did you do to change your situation?

When you finally surrendered to the will of God, what did God do?



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Read Jonah Chapter 3

Chapter three opens with God repeating His instructions to Jonah. Isn't it interesting that while Jonah was out of communion with the Lord's will that Jonah did not hear from the Lord but as soon as Jonah relented he received the Lord's words once again?

An interesting fact mentioned about Nineveh in this chapter. It is an ancient city but it is three days wide! Even in our modern world there are not many cities that can boast about being a three day walk to get across them!

It says that Jonah walked a full day into the city and started to yell "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

If you had to guess, how would you say the people of this massive city would react to this stranger preaching of destruction from a foreign god? Would you listen if someone was doing this in your town?

Next we see something very unexpected happen and to a degree that could only have been a work of God.

What did the people of Nineveh do?

What was so astounding about the degree of response that Jonah received?

How did God respond?

Would you expect this response to a message of repentance today?



Day 4

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Read Jonah Chapter 4

In chapter 4 God is dealing with Jonah's heart after he has spared Nineveh.

What is surprising about Jonah's response to the work that God used him for?

Why did Jonah seem to prefer the destruction of Nineveh over the loss of his own reputation?

Can you contrast this to your own life and a need to reach the lost?

After Jonah's complaint we get this picture of him pouting outside the city. Jonah is watching to see what will become of the city although he knows God is going to spare it. It almost seems that Jonah thinks, like a spoiled child, that if he pouts long enough that God will destroy the city anyway even though the people have complied to God's wishes.

God causes a plant to grow that provides shelter for Jonah during this time and Jonah is very pleased with the plant because it is shading him from the intense sun. God then causes a worm to destroy the plant knowing that this will cause Jonah to grumble.

Why did God do this?

What was the overall lesson that God was impressing upon Jonah in this chapter?

Compare to Matthew 10:29-31 and Luke Chapter 15



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Chapter Highlights

Chapter 1

- God's will for Jonah...Jonah's response...
- Tarshish was not only the opposite direction but also is noted as taking months to sail to.
- Ship's crew became converts to the one true God as a result!
- We see the first mention of the 3 days and 3 nights that Christ would later spend in death. So Jonah's time in the belly was symbolic of death and being in Sheol.

Chapter 2

- Jonah's will failed then he remembers God and Jonah through prayer pleads with God to be delivered from death. (salvation)
- Jonah's description of being cast into the sea a archetype of water baptism?
- When Jonah repented that salvation is of the Lord, the fish spit him out on dry land!

Chapter 3

- After Jonah repents he hears the word of the Lord again.
- Nineveh response was unexpected. (Trust in the Lord)
- The response was so great that even the royalty repented and every person and creature were dressed in sackcloth and fasted!

Chapter 4

- Jonah's lesson about the bigger picture. It wasn't about Jonah's reputation but about the will of God and His love for the lost.
- Jonah's unrighteous anger because of God sparing Nineveh and misunderstanding of God's purpose for sending him.
- God's correction through giving and taking away and who supplies all.
- God's explanation to Jonah for why He spared Nineveh even though it made Jonah look like he prophesied wrongly.

Has God laid something on your heart, like Jonah, that you are running away from?

Do we have to understand what God is asking of us or should we trust that it is God that is asking?