



Jonah 1

“The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai:

“Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.

But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

*Then **the Lord sent** a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.*

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep.

The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.”

Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”

He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?”

Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before.

Then they cried out to the Lord, “Please, Lord, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, Lord, have done as you pleased.”

Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.

Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”

When God speaks to us... we can choose to run from Him but...

He pursues us... He disciplines those He loves... yet,

He offers mercy to anyone who cries out for mercy

“Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.” Revelation 3:19-20

*“And **everyone** who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved...” Joel 2:32*

“At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.” Titus 3:3-5

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

Can you remember a clear Word that came from God?

If yes, what was your response?

Have you seen others run from God? What has it looked like? Were there any parallels with the story of Jonah?

Have you ever been “in the boat” with someone who is disobeying God and experience God’s discipline in their life? What did you learn about God? Others? Yourself?

Has there been an area in your life that you feel like God has spoken to you to about that you were or are reluctant to obey? What makes it hard to surrender? What would it take, or what has it taken for you to be obedient?

Prayer: Ask God if there is anything He has said to you, that you haven’t be obedient to Him in yet?

What will you do with what He has said?