

Jonah - Part 2
Commands Lead to Rebellion
02/18/2024

- When he runs from God and is swallowed by a large sea monster?
- Jonah is both a picture of us and a picture of Christ at the same time.

Jonah 1:1-17 (NIV) 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?" (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.) The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?" "Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you." 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.

1st) Commands cause **RUNNERS** to run.

Jonah 1:3 (NIV) But Jonah ran away from the LORD...

- The story begins with shockingly quick, almost instinctual disobedience.
- Jonah is not unique.
- He is merely another stubborn human, much like ourselves, who chooses to go in the opposite direction when commanded by God.
- When God gives commandments or laws, people immediately disobey.
- The point: the Bible wants us to see that commands lead to disobedience.
- When the law comes in, it incites, exposes, and provokes.
- The Consequences of Running:

A) Things go **DOWN** fast.

Jonah 1:3b(NIV) He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port.

- Running from God's direction causes bad consequences.
- God says to Jonah, "Go."
- Jonah says to God, "No."
- God says to Jonah, "Oh."
- I can choose to totally ignore God with my life, if I want to.
- Running from God is all downhill.
- If you want to run from God, Satan will always make sure there's a ship.

B) Running has a **PRICE**.

Jonah 1:3b (NIV) After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

- It always costs more to run from God, than it costs to run to God.

C) Running will bring **RESISTANCE**.

Jonah 1:4(NIV) Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up.

- God will deal with your running -
- He loves you.
- He knows what is best for you more than you do.

D) Running has **FALLOUT**.

Jonah 1:4b-5 (NIV) 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.

- If I run from God, other people will get hurt.
- And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

2nd) Commands cause **SHAME**.

Jonah 1:5b-6 (NIV) 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."

- Get up and pray - We're gonna die
- You Will Be Remembered For Two Things; The Problems You Solve Or The Ones You Create.

Jonah 1:8-10 (NIV) 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?” (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)

- It all still points to Jesus

Mark 4:37-38 (ESV) And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

- Jonah was in a storm
- Jesus was in a storm
- Jonah was asleep in the storm
- Jesus was asleep in the storm

3rd) Commands cause **DISOBEDIENCE**.

Jonah 1:12-13 (NIV) “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.” Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before.

- Note first that the men disobeyed Jonah here, like Jonah disobeyed God.
- Commandments, again, led to stubborn disobedience.
- Rowing against the grace of God
- The more we try to rescue ourselves by rowing out of our own storms of sin, the worse things get.

How do you stop a storm in your life? **SURRENDER**

- I throw myself into God’s grace

When I Throw Myself into God’s Grace:

A) Things **CALM** down.

Jonah 1:15 (NIV) Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm.

B) I Create a **WITNESS**.

Jonah 1:16 (NIV) At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

C) I’ll see God’s **MERCY**.

Jonah 1:1 (NIV) 17 Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.