

THE JONAH IN US

JONAH, PART 1

Pastor Ken Ritz * Feb 5, 2017 * New Life Vineyard Church

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. Jonah 1:1-3

You can run from God, but you can't outrun God.

People who run from God, run to _____

People who run from God, lose their _____

People who run from God _____ those who are close to them.

Verse 4-5

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.

God uses consequences and pain, not to pay you back, but to bring you back.

Verse 7-9

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? ...

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

Verse 12-17

"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."

... 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.

When you run from God, God doesn't chase you, He waits for you.

But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.

Questions For Discussion

- 1) In his mind, Jonah had legitimate reasons for not wanting to preach to the Ninevites. Describe a time when you disobeyed God's direction and faced the consequences.
- 2) What has God used in your past (or present) to get your attention?
- 3) What has God asked you to do that you haven't done? (Is there any area of disobedience in your life?)

**All scriptures from TNIV unless otherwise noted*