

June 23, 2019

### **“Jonah: Man on the Run!”**

“God’s Grace and His Unrelenting Pursuit”

*“I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.”* *Jonah 4:2b*

### **“Whining Alone”**

*“But to Jonah this seemed very wrong and he became angry.”* *Jonah 4:1*

#### **A. The city of Nineveh repents...**

*“When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, He changed His mind and did not carry out the destruction He had threatened.”* *Vs 3:10*

1. Jonah’s message of repentance was heard.  
*“Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!”* *Vs 3:4b*

2. The people of Nineveh believed.  
*“The people of Nineveh believed God’s message”* *Vs 3:5a*

3. A massive revival swept across the entire city.  
*“...Perhaps even yet God will change His mind and hold back His fierce anger from destroying us.”* *Vs 3:9b*

#### **B. Jonah was angry...**

*“This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and He became very angry.”* *Vs 4:1*

1. Jonah knew that God was merciful and compassionate.  
*“...I knew that You are a merciful and compassionate God...”* *Vs 4:2*

2. Jonah knew that God was slow to get angry.  
*“...slow to get angry...”* *Vs 4:2*

3. Jonah knew that God was filled with unfailing love.  
*“...filled with unfailing love.”* *Vs 4:2*

4. Jonah knew that God was reluctant to destroy people.  
*“...You are eager to turn back from destroying people.”* *Vs 4:2*

5. Jonah only wanted God’s grace to apply to himself...not to his enemies!

*“Just kill me now, LORD! I’d rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen.”* *Vs 4:3*

#### **C. God demonstrated His power over nature...**

1. God used a storm and controlled the wind and the waves.

*“But the LORD hurled a powerful wind over the sea, causing a violent storm that threatened to break the ship apart.”* *Vs 1:4*

2. God used a great fish to swallow Jonah, carry Jonah, and to spit him out.

*“Now the LORD had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah.”* *Vs 1:17*

*“Then the LORD ordered the fish to spit Jonah out onto the beach.”* *Vs 2:10*

3. God used a plant or a vine.  
*“...And the LORD God arranged for a leafy plant to grow there...”* *Vs 4:6*

4. God used a worm.  
*“But God also arranged for a worm!”* *Vs 4:7*

5. God used the wind.  
*“...God arranged for a scorching east wind to blow on Jonah.”* *Vs 4:8*

#### **D. God revealed to Jonah his self-centered heart...**

*“The LORD replied, ‘Is it right for you to be angry about this?’”* *Vs 4:4*

1. Jonah’s love and forgiveness was very conditional.

*“So he complained to the LORD about it: ‘Didn’t I say before I left home that you would do this, LORD?’”* *Vs 4:2*

2. Jonah went out and waited, in hopes that the city would still be destroyed.

*“Then Jonah went out to the east side of the city and made a shelter to sit under as he waited to see what would happen to the city.”* *Vs 4:5*

3. Jonah was angry that the plant died.

*“Then God said to Jonah, ‘Is it right for you to be angry because the plant died?’”* *Vs 4:9*

4. God showed Jonah his emotional immaturity, his spiritual self-centeredness, his lack of love, his unwillingness to forgive, and his inability to grasp that God is ultimately in control!

*“Then the LORD said, ‘You feel sorry about the plant, though you did nothing to put it there. It came quickly and died quickly. But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness, not to mention all the animals. Shouldn’t I feel sorry for such a great city?’”* *Vs 4:10-11*

#### **E. Where is your heart?**

1. Jonah argued with God, but why? Are you arguing with God about something in your life?

2. Jonah knew the character of God but only wanted it to be selectively given. Have you known who God is but not been trusting Him with all of your life?

3. Jonah prayed twice...once in the belly of the great fish and once when he was angry. Is prayer a priority in your life? Not just at crisis moments?

4. Jonah wanted the grace of God in his life, but wasn’t willing to extend it to others. Has God forgiven you, but are you unwilling to forgive others?

5. Did God love Jonah less because He sent a storm, a fish, a vine, a worm, or wind? Does God love you less when He sends storms to you?

6. Jonah was in the mindset that life was all about him. Do you fall into that same mindset? Life is not all about you. It’s all about Nineveh!

7. What matters to God is people! Do people matter to you?

*“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples.”* *John 13:35*