

Jonah Fleeing: The Response of a Reluctant Prophet

Jonah 1

The Old Testament book of Jonah is much more than the story of a fish swallowing Jonah. It's the story of the gospel being given to a people who deserved nothing but judgment, and a message of hope from a prophet who needed to rediscover it for himself. Jonah is commanded by God to do something that freaked him out! His response was anything but obedient. Because there is a "Jonah" inside all of us, his response often mirrors ours. Jonah's "journal" is the open and honest story of one struggling with God. It's the story of a man who blew it and is given a second chance. This morning we will look at the first chapter of Jonah and observe the scores of practical lessons his life gives.

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. The Prophet Jonah:

B. The Book of Jonah: *God relentlessly pursues the reluctant redeemed (Jonah) and the sinful rebel (Nineveh) not to enslave but to make us truly free!*

II. EXPOSITION: Jonah 1

A. God's Command: *"Go...and preach"*

B. Jonah's Response: *"Ran...and headed for Tarshish"*

C. God's Response: *"Sent a great wind of the sea"*

D. Captain's and Sailors' Response: *"Afraid...cried out...went to (Jonah)...cast lots...asked...rowed back to land...threw overboard...sacrificed to the LORD and made vows to him"*

III. CONCLUSION:

A. Every step out of the will of God is downward and adversely impacts others.

B. When we "run from God" we never get where we're going and we pay our own way.

C. Getting away is quick and easy – recovery is slow and painful.

D. Satan works through circumstances just like God...so listen to God first!

E. There's a little of Jonah in us all...yet God can still use us!

(This outline is provided to assist you in understanding and applying this morning's message. First in a series of messages by Pastor Doug Hornok on "Jonah: More than a Fish Story." This message is available online at www.MidvalleyBible.org. MBC 5//17/2015)