



Jonah #1 – “When God Wrecks My Life”

Two Interpretive Views

1. HISTORICAL Narrative

2. Narrative PARABLE

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil^[a] has come up before me.” Jonah 1: 1-2

- Jonah’s Mission Was UNPRECEDENTED

But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD. Jonah 1:3

“If You Want To Run From God’s Presence, The Devil Will Always Offer You A Ride” ~Pastor Craig Groeshel~

- Jonah RATIONALIZED His Disobedience.
- Every Step Away From God Is A Step DOWNWARD

But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵ Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep.” Jonah 1:4-5

“This Storm Was Not Meant To Destroy Jonah; It Was A Severe Act Of Mercy To Stop His Path Toward Self-Destruction.”

“What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish.” Jonah 1:6

- Disobedience & Sin BLIND Us.

He said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.” Jonah 1:12

- Our COMPETEING Vision For Life Is At The Root Of All Our Disobedience.

"Often the first step in coming to one's senses spiritually is when we start to think of somebody – anybody – other than ourselves."

~Timothy Keller~

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ JONAH 1:1-16

- Why do you think Jonah chose to run from God?
- What are some reasons you might run from God?
- Discuss the statement "If you want to run from God, the devil will always offer you a ride." What do you think about that?
Jonah "paid the fare" to board the ship. (Verse 3) In what ways do we "pay a fare" when we choose to path away from God's will?
- While a violent storm is raging because of his actions, Jonah is fast asleep in the hold of the ship (verse 5). How can disobedience make a person spiritually numb or blind to the chaos around them?
- Sometimes God sends "storms" into our lives today to stop us from going the wrong way and some storms just a natural part of living in a broken world? How can you tell the difference?
- When interrogated, Jonah proclaims, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven" (verse 9). How does his behavior contradict his verbal confession of faith?
- God use Jonah's brokenness and failure to bring others to faith (verse 16) How you ever experienced this?

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

- Where in your life are you rationalizing sin and running from God?
- What Tarshish have you run too, to avoid God's calling on your life?
- What Nineveh has God called you too, that you have been running from?

SOURCE MATERIAL:

Timothy Keller "Rediscovering Jonah/The Parodical Prophet"

Tim Mackie "Running From Your Life"

Craig Groeshel "Jonah" Life Church Open

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