

MWM: 5/03/20

## Jonah

Have you been running from the Lord?

- Nineveh was evil
  - Nineveh was first mentioned in Genesis 10:11 as founded by Nimrod. (Now in Northern Iraq) Nimrod was a smart, strong, and mighty hunter who had his people to build the Tower of Babel to prevent God from destroying mankind in the event God sent another flood to destroy the Earth, even though God promised He'd never destroy every living thing on earth in that way again. (Gen 6-8)
  - God asked Jonah to go to Nineveh, capital of Assyria (destroyed Israel 722-721 B.C.)
  - Jonah ran to Joppa (known today as Jaffa), a small town in Israel near the Mediterranean Sea. (about 30 miles from Jerusalem)
  - What does Joppa mean? Beautiful
  - What does Nineveh mean?
  - Boat to Tarshish w/ other people
  - Why was Jonah sleeping?
  - Jonah knew the sea would become calm.
  - They realized that their gods couldn't save them.
  - They tried to get the boat back to shore before throwing him off.
  - They acknowledged God as The Lord.
  - Jonah was thrown off, swallowed by a whale, and there for 3 days and 3 nights.
  - He prayed.
  - Jonah praised (thanked) the Lord in prayer for saving him.
  - The Lord spoke to the fish, and the whale vomited Jonah.
  - God told Jonah to talk to people in Nineveh.
  - Jonah went this time. It's a BIG city, it takes three days to walk through it. More than 120,000 people in that city that did not know they were doing wrong.
  - 3 days from Greenville to Charlotte. That's a 3.5 to 4 hour drive, around 250 miles (500,000 steps). Around 2000 steps per mile.
  - Nineveh fasted, showed they were sad and repentant, and changed their ways. They proclaimed (cry). They realized they were sinful, especially sinful against people.
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- "I knew you would forgive them, that's why I didn't want to go." (Paraphrased from Jonah)
  - Jonah was angry that God forgave them and began complaining
  - How many people have had something done to them by someone that looks like they're doing great? You've been hurt by someone who is still out here doing good, looking good, successful, they don't look like they've been punished.
  - It can be a number of things
    1. They're repentant and forgiven
    2. They're mentally dealing with it (or it's all a front)

3. God will get them when He's ready
4. etc.
  - It doesn't matter! Check yourself. The question is: Have you forgiven them? You wouldn't be worried about what they were doing and how they were looking if you were over what they did to you. Maybe you should start focusing on yourself, your relationship with God, how many times He's forgiven you for the wrong you've done, how many times God has saved you from unfortunate outcomes caused by something you did or said.
  - Then the Lord said, "Do you think it is right for you to be angry?"  
Jonah 4:4 ERV
  - You done got in a comfortable place to watch what happens to someone else.
  - Gourd Plant and Worm
  - Plant grew, made Jonah more comfortable and cool
  - Not only did God let the plant die, but He made sure it was real hot.
  - Jonah thought he had a right to be angry.
  - Ever have someone be angry at you for making a choice within your life that doesn't even affect them. You decide to go on a diet, and they're like, "Look at them. They think they better than us. They lost 20 lbs, so! They still got a 100 more to go." All the while, they're the ones that probably need the diet. They're looking at you...Mad because you made a life choice to better yourself.
  - When people are confined and spending time with the Lord it saves lives. Matthew 12:39, again at 16:4
  - 3 days: Completion
1. Jesus was resurrected on the 3rd day (Jewish culture considers someone to really be dead if they've been dead for 3 days)
2. Jonah was in the whale for 3 days (saved from drowning, people were forgiven)
3. On the third day, God separated land from sea and commanded the earth to grow plants, fruits, and trees. Gen 1:9-13
4. Means harmony or new life in Hebrew
5. Over 400 times in the Bible
6. Describe the intensity of something
7. Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit (Trinity)
8. We should always pay attention to the number three because it is showing a level of importance or completeness.
  - Are you afraid it's going to save lives?
  - Afraid of being alone with yourself?
  - Afraid you won't be able to gossip?

## Resources

BibleHub

Bible Speak