

## Running on Empty- Jonah 1

Matthew 12:38-41- Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." <sup>39</sup> But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup> For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. <sup>41</sup> The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

Who was Jonah?

2 Kings 14:25-He restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, which he spoke by his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher.

- *Jonah was a p\_\_\_\_\_ of God. God had called him to preach, to warn of judgment, and to call people to repentance.*
- *Jonah served during the reign of Jereboam II (793-753 BC).*
- *Jonah lived in Gath-Hepher near Nazareth in Galilee.*
- *God gave him the assignment of declaring judgment to the wicked city of N\_\_\_\_\_.*
- *Nineveh was the capital city of the A\_\_\_\_\_ Empire.*
- *It had been built originally by Nimrod who constructed the Tower of Babel on this location. Nineveh was the definitive pagan center.*
- *They were mortal e\_\_\_\_\_ of Israel, known for their barbaric brutality.*
- *They worshipped false g\_\_\_\_\_.*
- *Even though there were times when the Jews made political alliances with them, they had absolutely no spiritual concern for them.*
- *As far as the Jews were concerned, God's Powerful w\_\_\_\_\_ on this great city would be just what they deserved.*

### 1. God's D\_\_\_\_\_ - v. 2

- **To Show His M\_\_\_\_\_**
  - **To the Ninevites**

Jonah 1:2- "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me."

2 Peter 3:9- The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

- **To J\_\_\_\_\_**

- **To the M\_\_\_\_\_**

**Jonah 1:16-** Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

- **To Accomplish His W\_\_\_\_\_**

### 2. Jonah's D\_\_\_\_\_ - v. 3

Jonah 4:2- And he prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.

- We d\_\_\_\_\_ ourselves in our disobedience
  - Our way of thinking is justified

Micah6:8- He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

- We can do it o\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_\_
- We can find r\_\_\_\_\_ in our defiance
- We can e\_\_\_\_\_ the consequences

Jonah 1:9- And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

### 3. God's D\_\_\_\_\_ - vv. 4-16

Galatians 6:7-10- Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. <sup>8</sup> For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

*Why would God go that length to change Jonah's heart?*

Hebrews 12:7-11- It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup> If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup> Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup> For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup> For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.