

Jonah 1-2

Good evening, Church. It is wonderful to be here with you all tonight.

In February 2016, we began a significant undertaking: teaching through the Old Testament here on Wednesday Nights...

Tonight marks ten years since we began, and we will start the book of Jonah.

It will not be long before we finish the Old Testament.

I want to remind you that when we finish the Old Testament here on Wednesday Nights, we will do one New Testament book: the Book of Revelation.

Then we will return to the beginning and start in Genesis.

Before we begin our study, I have a few announcements.

I want to remind you, couples, about the marriage dinner...

The Pastors opened it to engaged couples and those planning to marry...

Remember, sign-ups are limited, so please don't wait till the last minute...

You can sign up at the back kiosks, on our website, in the App, or call MJ in the morning, or just come in, and she can get you signed up.

It will be a wonderful time. My friend John Milhouse will be here from Moreno Valley, and we will have a nice dinner prepared.

We must invest in our marriages every chance we get.

The last thing I want to say about that night is that we will also announce our upcoming marriage study, along with its new times, during the dinner.

Also, ladies, your Bible Study will resume this Tuesday at 9:30 am. The morning session will have childcare available.

There will also be a night study home fellowship meeting at 6:30 pm for you ladies who work and need an evening study.

All the information is available on the website or in the app. Also, you can call MJ in the morning to get more info on the women's Bible study.

So, with that said, let's pray, and we will get into God's Word...

The first site we stopped at in Israel was Caesarea by the Sea...

Now, that site is significant Biblically, as we were driving to the site that morning, I found myself thinking about how grateful I was for what took place in Caesarea in the New Testament.

Do you all know why it is so important for us?

Caesarea is where Peter was sent to Cornelius's house, and he preached the Gospel to Gentiles...

Acts 10:46-48 Then Peter answered, **47** "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *have*?" **48** And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days. Now, everything changed; history changed.

The Gospel would go into all the world.

But understand this: Jesus had already been working through the disciples' presuppositions.

Presuppositions are the **assumptions we bring with us before we ever start thinking, arguing, or interpreting something**. They're the "givens" sitting in the background of our minds—usually unspoken, often unnoticed—but they shape how we see *everything*.

My wife, only recently, within the last few years, has started letting our kids wear colors differently; her whole life was dominated by her family's loyalty to Black and White, her father's motorcycle club...

Those were things ingrained in her since childhood, deeply rooted.

We all have them... some are very racist, some lean to one side of a political spectrum, and we all carry these engrained presuppositions in life, and when we encounter people who are from what might be from the other side of the scale of thought or belief, we despise them, or we have a natural disgust, or for some a deep seeded hatred even.

Even the best of us can have these types of thoughts or tendencies.

Note that the disciples and Jesus were approaching a Samaritan village, but the Samaritans did not receive them because Jesus intended to go to Jerusalem.

Luke 9:54-56 And when His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" **55** But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. **56** For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save *them*." And they went to another village.

Jesus was already trying to show them that something new was now coming to the world...

Jesus was teaching another way... all that deep-seated animosity and hatred, all the differences and things that we see as dividing points in humanity, Jesus came to set forth a different way...

I thank God that I married my wife, who is from the other side... as she always reminds me, "From my side of the tracks."

She has always brought balance to my own ingrained presuppositions in life... where my white middle-class conservative upbringing has given me a particular pair of goggles on this world...

Her side of the tracks has given her a different vantage point...

And she has constantly been a voice of reason in my life and ministry, and those that I might want to call thunder down upon naturally, I more now have a heart to hear and have compassion on...

Where I might have a ministry to only one subgroup of people who look like me, talk like me, and act like me, Jess has allowed every ministry we have served in to be filled with all kinds of people.

And believe this is more Jesus-like...

And as we will see tonight, it is not only a New Testament revelation.

This is our God, looking to reach anyone who would repent and open their hearts to Him, even the most unlikely, the most vile, the most wicked, those we might even dislike the most.

And there is another dramatic reality to it all, He will call His people to reach them...

It might be a hard pill for you to swallow tonight... those you despise the most here on planet earth...

Might be the very ones God calls you to reach one day...

Run from that calling... Ha... you cannot outrun the Lord.

Sofia had this young lady on her team... tall, with long legs, and when she got going, she would outpace everyone on the field; she was so fast...

And no one can outpace the long legs of the Lord... believe me, many of us have tried.

Jonah will set the ultimate example of a man who tried, who allowed his deep hatred for his fellow man to cause him to disobey the Lord... But God always catches His man.

Look how the book of Jonah begins...

Verse 1...

Jonah's Disobedience

1:1 Now the word of the LORD CAME to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, **2** "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

Now, let us talk about this man of God, this prophet Jonah.

His name means “Dove.”

This is somewhat interesting because Jonah will be more like a hawk in nature.

He was a patriot; he loved his nation and loved that he was a Hebrew.

He believed strongly that the Jews were God’s chosen people and that they were destined to be a kingdom to rule over other kingdoms.

We actually already met Jonah in our study of the Old Testament.

Back in 2 Kings, we are told during the days of King Jeroboam....

2 Kings 14:25 He restored the territory of Israel from the entrance of Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which He had spoken through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai,

Think about this: Jonah’s first prophetic ministry was one of joy and celebration.

He predicted Israel's victory and its expanded borders.

He got to pronounce judgment on the despised Gentiles and blessing on the Hebrews.

That fit right into his ingrained presuppositions.

But in verse one, God gives His servant another assignment: this time, he is told to go beyond Israel's borders to the Assyrian city of Nineveh and call them to repentance.

Assyria at that time was the world's superpower.

This was an incredible task and calling...

Jonah loved his God; there is no doubt about that, but he absolutely hated the Ninevites, with a deep, deep hatred... some could even see merits for this hatred... they were a wicked people group.

Jonah was a spiritual bigot, however... Limiting God's Grace to the Jews, believing that in God's giant resources and immense heart, there was no room for anyone else but the Jews.

And Bigotry, racism, and ignorance grow like this, usually out of years of misconceptions and deep-rooted bitterness, even personal grudges.

Jonah had developed this bigoted attitude and assumed that the Jews were better than Gentiles.

This was something Jesus combated directly in His day, vehemently, with the leaders over their religious institution.

The rabbis in Jesus's day taught that God created Gentiles for kindling to stoke the flames of hell.

They hated anyone who was not Jewish.

You still find remnants of this among the people today.

The Goyim, the people from the nations, still make the religious Jews very uncomfortable... in the airports, and in the busy marketplaces, they do not want to touch us or interact with us... We are still very much unclean to many of them... not all of them...

We all carry some racial bigotry within us that comes from our upbringing, typically, or maybe experiences that we just cannot let go...

But bigotry is an affront to God, and it narrows and even gets in the way of who we can reach with the Gospel of Grace.

We allow our wicked hearts to shrink God's heart to smaller groups in our own reach... typically within our own safe circles.

Prejudice is a high heavenly crime.

Before we left for Israel... My seven-year-old Daisy was driving around with me...

And I love that our little family is all mixed up with different varieties...

We were talking about how it was Martin Luther King Day...

And she is really bright... she tells me, "Dad, you know, Martin Luther King chose to make his point through peaceful protests... but if someone did something to

my brother Cruz because his skin is dark, I would choose violence, Dad.”

She looks at me with those pretty blue eyes, and her golden hair, and gives me the creepiest little smile...

She is referring to her adopted brother, who has darker skin...

So, I had to talk to her about how Jesus might have us handle that situation.

But prejudice is the peak of pride... and it is ugly to see another human beings manifest it... to look down upon others in thinking that they are better because of their skin color or nationality, and to treat others with disdain or disrespect...

It is heresy to think that another human is inferior to you.

It is sinning against God's love and creativity.

The Prophet Jonah was in sin... but consider the justifications for his hatred.

The Assyrians were some of the most disgusting, brutal, cruel, blood-sick people ever to exist.

They seemed to have no moral code at all.

I don't want to get too graphic tonight, but I think I must to understand the enormity of Jonah's hatred of these people.

The Assyrians would conquer a town, and if there were survivors, the amount of torture they would inflict was so terrible.

A man would be held down, and they would reach in his mouth and rip out his tongue down to the roots.

They would cut off limbs, take out eyes, rip off lips, and ears.

They would kill a man's family in front of him with fire.

When they were done with the massacre of a village, they would pile up the skulls outside the gate as a warning for those left not to rebel.

They might skin people alive...

We are told that Jonah was from

2 Kings 14:25 the prophet who *was* from Gath Hopher.

This is in the Galilee region, which the Assyrians often raided.

Jonah's family could have been impacted by these raids by the war parties.

Could you go minister to a people group who impaled your friends and neighbors, perhaps family members' heads on spears...

Or flayed your father alive... or burned your mother?

Sure, Jesus taught

Matt 5:44 love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

Could you love people as wicked as the Assyrians?

Maybe prejudice would look a lot different at that point.

When a certain people group victimizes those we love, we tend to direct our wrath toward members of that group.

This could be Jonah's inner struggle here...

Jonah knew his God...

We know our God... He is so full of Mercy, ready to forgive...

Jonah knew that if he went and preached, there was a chance they would turn and repent, and God would heal their land, and Jonah could not handle that.

He hated Nineveh and the Assyrians.

I wonder if the Church sometimes understands this...

God does not hate the people we hate...

That person who hurt you, that person who did you wrong, that person who cheated you out of money, those people shouting at us...

God hates their sin, but God will still forgive the sinner, and He desires to heal their life just as much as He has healed yours.

Sometimes we think God hates what we hate or who we hate...

God actually loves that woman who cheated on you and wants her to repent.

God loves your alcoholic stepmother.

God loves your abusive father.

God loves the boss who cheated you.

God loves your business partner who left you hanging.

He also wants to restore their lives.

What if God called you to share the Gospel with the person you hate, to bring to heaven that person you curse to hell every day?

You might have more in common with Jonah than you think.

I know a Pastor who actually got to lead his ex-wife to the Lord on her deathbed... a life of vicious exchanges ended with Grace and Forgiveness, and he was able to lead her to Jesus... because he was able to forgive and let go...

So verse 3 now...

3 But Jonah arose 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 from the presence of the LORD.

Jonah loses the inner conflict within and disobeys the Lord.

He does not want to be a missionary to the Assyrians, and he goes in the exact opposite direction from Nineveh.

He goes 20 miles to Joppa, gets a ticket to Tarshish. This would be just about the farthest you could go.

Some suggest this is Britain, others claim it is Gibraltar on the coast of Spain.

Wherever it was, it was the furthest west you could get from Assyria.

It would have taken over a year to get from Joppa, stopping at all the seaports along the way to Spain.

He was on the run from God...

I imagine Jonah had a feeling or impulse that led him to go to Tarshish.

Many people are led in their lives by these things, and sometimes even blame God.

“I feel as though God wants us to sell our home and move to Texas.”

“God gave me emotion, and my emotions are leading me this way.”

And there is a danger when we allow our impulses to lead our lives over the Word of God.

I have seen a person's inner impulses lead them all over the place and bring havoc to their family and their life...

An impulse can lead us to do to God or others what we would never want done to ourselves.

Jonah may have even convinced himself that God provided the fare for the passage to Tarshish...

People will do this too...

The Word of God is plain and clear...

But they will look for signs and symbols...

God's Word says don't have sex outside of marriage...

But you go into a store, and there it is, a t-shirt with both your names on it, it is a sign, true love, it is meant to be... God has given us a sign...

Why would God bring you into my life, and give such a clear sign, as this t-shirt with both our names on it, if we were not supposed to be together tonight...

It is so easy to make up Providence or signs to manipulate God's Will, when we want to do something contrary to His Word...

We notice the stars align a certain way, the numbers on a license plate are the date we met, well, they are off 3 days, but close enough...

And we create our own way, surely God would not have done this if He did not want me to do that...

There we go, marching down a path of our own making.

We sold the house because a person named Jane wanted to buy it, and my great aunt was named Jane, and they were both born on Monday, and that can't be coincidence, and the contract had 333 pages, so it was stamped with three trinities, God was in it...

But when you run away from the Lord, you never get where you are going...

And you ultimately find out you will be paying your own way...

Jonah went from the presence of the Lord, so he thought... He was running...

And those who are chasing the signs and wonders... looking to make the stars align are usually running from something as well... God wants them to face something... they want the easy way... and “Look God provided the fare for Tarshish.” So they claim...

They are trying to hide from God...

But where can we go from His presence? If we ascend into heaven, He is there; if we go into the lower parts of the earth, there He is. You cannot escape the Lord.

The Storm at Sea

4 But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.

5 Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that *was* in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had

gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.

I believe it is important to note that God sent this storm.

We were just on the Sea of Galilee, and our Elder Steve Soto did an excellent teaching there...

We were out on a calm Sea that day, remembering how the Lord calmed the Storm and the Waves, and calmed the tempest for the disciples.

You can make an excellent teaching from that, on how God calms the storms in our lives...

But here we see that there are times when the storm that is upon us is actually brought there by God Himself.

Here God conjured up the waves, and He sent the wind...

And there is wisdom, when our lives are bashing up against the rocks and the wind and waves are

crashing against us relentlessly, we should ask, “Lord, is this storm from You?”

God sometimes creates storms to get our attention.

We see here that this storm was so violent that the ship was about to be broken up.

They were afraid for their survival.

Jonah was fast asleep... opposite the disciples and Jesus, where our Lord was sleeping as the tempest blew.

Here, the wayward child of God was resting in the belly of the ship, trying to hide from God.

He seems to be in a place of denial here... forcing himself to sleep through the storm.

But the storm would ultimately force him onto the deck.

Verse 6 now...

6 So the captain came to him, and said to him, "What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish."

7 And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble *has come* upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. **8** Then they said to him, "Please tell us! For whose cause *is* this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?"

Everyone on the ship was praying to their specific god...

Yet, nothing would help, so it was time for Jonah to put in some religious work.

They also wanted him to pray.

They assumed a rebel or a troubler was on board, and here they find the prodigal traveler.

They cast lots, meaning they rolled dice or drew straws, imagining that God would speak to who was the bad guy on board.

**Proverbs 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap,
But every decision is from the Lord.**

The lot reveals Jonah, and they demand he tell them who he is... and how he brought the trouble to their lives...

They put him through a tribunal of some sort...

And Jonah gives his response now, verse 9...

9 So 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*."

Jonah Thrown into the Sea

10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "Why have you done this?" For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. **11** Then they said to him, "What

shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?"
— for the sea was growing more tempestuous.

12 And he said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest *is* because of me."

It is interesting here that Jonah never thinks to repent, or humble himself before God, to look to deliverance...

He was so set in his rebellion that he would rather die than deal with that prejudice that was deep within his heart.

Jonah, turn from your sin, obey the Lord, and the storm in your life would cease.

So many today will stay in their sin, in their rebellion, in their chaos, and they would rather go to their death than submit themselves to the Grace of God.

Jonah was trying to avoid God... and the men would not throw him over... not yet anyway...

Look at verse 13...

13 Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them. **14** Therefore, they cried out to the LORD AND said, "We pray, O LORD, please do not let us perish for this man's life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O LORD, have done as it pleased You." **15** So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. **16** Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the LORD and took vows.

Listen, when you are on the run from God, do not be surprised when the sea of life turns against you.

When your circumstances become unbearable.

It gets to the point where Jonah cannot be afforded a place on the ship anymore, and at first, the crew tried to help him out, and to outrow God's storm...

But of course, this was a futile exercise... God cannot be toyed with...

The choice was clear; they had to throw God's rebel overboard.

And as soon as the disobedient prophet hit that water, the sea ceased from its raging, and the storm grew calm.

The crew members were in awe, so impressed, so overcome with fear, that they worshipped God.

Even in his disobedience, God's prophet was used to draw men to his God.

The sailors immediately realized that Jonah's God was the One True God, the Creator God, and Controller of the Sea and of the Winds and Waves.

Jonah's hatred for the Gentiles was used as an opportunity for salvation for God, as they put their faith in the Hebrew God.

This will become the pattern of his ministry.

God will use this man Jonah more despite him than because of his willing heart.

Look at verse 17 now... we all remember this from our Children's Ministry stories...

Jonah's Prayer and Deliverance

17 Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Now, some find this text a little skeptical.

Some argue that this story is metaphorical or symbolic.

While walking with our Jewish guide in Israel, he always asks how our Church is going.

He has known me for years... and he likes to hear how things are going here. Tal is an intellectual; he loves the Bible, and, as he says, he is still on a spiritual journey.

But one thing that he marvels at is that so many people come to our church on a Sunday morning to hear the Bible taught...

He wants to know what the trick is, or the gimmick...

For him, a few hundred people coming to hear about the Bible is remarkable.

I told him, I am a simple guy, I have a little education, nothing to boast in, but really, I am a tradesman, called into the ministry...

But, my thing is, I believe the Bible, literally... and for Tal, that is the most interesting thing...

I don't go looking into it to find extra meanings, or trying to figure out the whys or the hows...

Jonah said in

Jonah 1:9 "I *am* a Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry *land*."

So if, now, the Bible says, the Lord prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah... Hey, that cannot be difficult for Him.

The other night, Sofia had her friend Ella over, and all the kids and I got home to a beautiful, clear night, and we looked up...

And just marveled at the universe... I asked them, "How big are your problems, when we know the God that made that?"

How hard is it really for God to prepare a giant fish in the ocean that would keep Jonah alive for 72 hours?

The Hebrew word there "prepared" implies that it was a special, unique preparation.

The God of miracles deliberately designed a fish for this mission.

Some assume it was a whale; maybe it was. There is a debated story of a whaler, James Bartley, in 1891, who was lost at sea off the coast of the Falkland Islands, and was found alive in a large sperm whale.

He was unconscious but alive.

Now, maybe it is true or not, but one thing I do know for sure, this story of Jonah is true; it literally happened.

Because the truest Man who ever lived told the story Himself, not as a metaphor, but as an actual story.

Jesus said...

Matt 12:40 For 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.

So, I am a simple man... my mind does not need more proof than that...

I spent so many years of my life challenging God, running from God, trying to disprove God...

I have found... It is just better to believe His Word... and take it for what it is... It is True...

God is more than capable of creating a fish that can carry a disobedient prophet for 72 hours, to get him to where he needs to be.

We see now, in verse 1 of Chapter 2...

Jonah's Prayer and God's Answer

2:1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD HIS God from the fish's belly. **2** And he said:

"I cried out to the LORD BECAUSE of my affliction,
And He answered me.

"Out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
And you heard my voice.

The word "Sheol" here is pretty interesting; it is the Old Testament term for Hades.

Jesus again made reference to Jonah being in the belly of the great fish, in likeness to Him being three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

The New Testament teaches that Jesus died on the cross, went to Sheol or Hades, where the captives heard Him preach to those waiting for their Savior, and then He rose on the third day.

Jesus compared His own journey to Jonah's experience.

Some wonder whether Jonah himself died and was resurrected before he was spat up onto the shore... that is not clear...

What we have here in Chapter 2, which makes it unlikely, is Jonah's prayer, there in total darkness, in the terrible heat, those nasty digestive juices, and all the sea goop, Jonah gives his prayer of repentance.

It seems here that the belly of a fish provides a pretty good prayer closet, as one ponders his life's choices and the mistakes he has made in life.

Jonah is desperate here, and he is broken, and he sees the cost of his prejudices, and repentance breaks forth.

So, what is more important than what the inside of the fish would be like is what the inside of Jonah's heart looks like here.

Verse 3...

3 For You cast me into the deep,
Into the heart of the seas,
And the floods surrounded me;
All Your billows and Your waves passed over me.

4 Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight;
Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.'

5 The waters surrounded me, *even* to my soul;
The deep closed around me.

Weeds were wrapped around my head.

6 I went down to the moorings of the mountains;
The earth with its bars *closed* behind me forever;
Yet You have brought up my life from the pit,
O LORD, my God.

Jonah's rock bottom was the bottom of the sea.

And like many of us, it is there, when we hit rock bottom, that is where we start to look up, and it is there that Jonah looks up.

Sometimes, and you might not want to hear this tonight, because you have a loved one you have carried for a long time... you have protected them from the pain of rock bottom... from really the feeling the pain of consequences at all... and it is taking a toll on them...

Some lessons will only be learned in life through pain... You must let them go... You have to allow them

to feel the weight of their decisions... stop being a cushion for their destructive behaviors...

God loves them too, more than you... and He needs to get a hold of them before they can truly heal...

A lot of the time, a good-hearted mother, sister, or friend can get in the way of what God is trying to do...

They need to hit that rock bottom so they can begin to look up...

Remember, in Chapter 1, Jonah is running from God; now, in Chapter 2, at his rock bottom, he is running back to God...

This is the only way...

That pain at the bottom, when there is nowhere else to go, is when they reach Jesus... and they find true healing...

John 8:36 Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Verse 7

**7 "When my soul fainted within me,
I remembered the LORD;**

And my prayer went *up* to You,
Into Your holy temple.

8 "Those who regard worthless idols
Forsake their own Mercy.

Jonah allowed his presuppositions in life, his prejudices, to become an idol, to limit what God wanted to do through Him.

He gave God conditions... "I will serve You only if..."

There were only certain things and people Jonah was willing to do and minister to.

Maybe you are guilty of the same thing tonight...

You have allowed your upbringing, your traditions, and your own prejudices to limit where God would use you.

There are certain people you will not deal with, talk to, be around...

Don't be surprised if God brings a storm in your life to break down your faulty theology and weak concepts...

He will put you into the belly of a fish if He must, to open your eyes to this world, to love others to the degree He does, to reach them as He would...

Look now at verse 8

9 But I will sacrifice to You
With the voice of thanksgiving;
I will pay what I have vowed.
Salvation is of the LORD."

10 So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah
onto dry *land*.

Before Jonah could go and give a sermon about the mercy of God, he had to experience it himself.

This whole experience was preparation of heart for the message he would bring.

Listen, I hear a great many preachers, who sound amazing, who have been through school and can articulate the Word with dazzle and charm...

But they have no depth of life or place of experience...

And it is hard to listen or receive from them...

You cannot really share what you don't possess yourself.

God will first work His truths in us, then He will work His truths through us to others.

So, Jonah is vomited up on Dry Land, and we will pick up the story there next time...

It is essential to note... God spoke to the fish there, and the fish obeyed...

This was God's doing from the moment Jonah was swallowed up.

Next time we get together, we will talk about his presentation and smell....

But the prophet got a second chance... He stopped running...

And maybe tonight you are running from God or God's calling on your life...

Listen to someone who has tried, you cannot outrun Him... I tried to run from this calling for many years...

He outpaced me at every turn...

He knows what it is going to take to bring you into His will.

It might take a storm... God might be preparing a giant fish...

He is going to intercept you and turn your life around...

You will hit rock bottom...

Maybe you are there tonight...

Listen, the way to heal is to repent, repent of your disobedience...

Whatever it is that you won't do, wherever it is you won't go, whatever it is you won't give, the one mission you won't accept... that one person you cannot love...

Is your prejudice more important than God's blessing and your obedience tonight?

The prayer team will be up here. Please make your way to the front if you need ministry tonight. **Let's pray...**