



Rick Mandl
rick@eaglerockbaptist.com
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JONAH RUNS FROM GOD

“The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: ‘Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are.’ But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the Lord by sailing to Tarshish. But the Lord hurled a powerful wind over the sea, causing a violent storm that threatened to break the ship apart. Fearing for their lives, the desperate sailors shouted to their gods for help and threw the cargo overboard to lighten the ship. But all this time Jonah was sound asleep down in the hold. So the captain went down after him. ‘How can you sleep at a time like this?’ he shouted. ‘Get up and pray to your god! Maybe he will pay attention to us and spare our lives.’ Then the crew cast lots to see which of them had offended the gods and caused the terrible storm. When they did this, the lots identified Jonah as the culprit. ‘Why has this awful storm come down on us?’ they demanded. ‘Who are you? What is your line of work? What country are you from? What is your nationality?’ Jonah answered, ‘I am a Hebrew, and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land.’ The sailors were terrified when they heard this, for he had already told them he was running away from the Lord. ‘Oh, why did you do it?’ they groaned. And since the storm was getting worse all the time, they asked him, ‘What should we do to you to stop this storm?’ ‘Throw me into the sea,’ Jonah said, ‘and it will become calm again. I know that this terrible storm is all my fault.’ Instead, the sailors rowed even harder to get the ship to the land. But the stormy sea was too violent for them, and they couldn’t make it. Then they cried out to the Lord, Jonah’s God. ‘O Lord,’ they pleaded, ‘don’t make us die for this man’s sin. And don’t hold us responsible for his death. O Lord, you have sent this storm upon him for your own good reasons.’ Then the sailors picked Jonah up and threw him into the raging sea, and the storm stopped at once! The sailors were awestruck by the Lord’s great power, and they offered him a sacrifice and vowed to serve him. Now the Lord had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights.”

Jonah 1:1-17

Lessons Learned From Jonah

1. God’s Word is _____ to us as _____ to Jonah

2. _____

3. It’s never _____ to _____

_____ comes before _____

MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO . . .

- Surrender to Jesus Christ for the first time and receive His salvation
- Ask God to show me areas where I’m acting like Jonah
- Accept the "Jonah Challenge" and read through the book of Jonah (it's only 48 verses) at least once this week
- Commit to being with us (as much as possible) for the next three messages in the "See Jonah Run" series



Discussion Questions - Week #7

LIFEGROUPS

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend, "Jonah Runs From God" summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Looking at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Is there any practical step you plan on taking this week in response to the message?

GETTING STARTED

- ▶ This weekend we began a new series on the prophet Jonah. When you think of Jonah, what comes to mind?

- ▶ If you had the chance to vacation anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In the Psalms, we read of both the desire to flee and the impossibility of doing so. Read Psalm 139 together. What one or two things stand out to you in this Psalm?

In verse seven, the psalmist asks "where can I flee from your Spirit?" What reasons might someone have for wanting to flee from God and His plan today?

Share a time in your life when you ran away from God or were tempted to do so.

The words in verses 19-22 are something we might easily picture Jonah praying. Why do you think such an appeal is included in God's word?

Most of us are comforted by the thought that we are fearfully and wonderfully made (v.14). Does it make any practical difference that your enemies are also fearfully and wonderfully made?

2. Many of us can understand where Jonah was coming from in his dislike for the Ninevites. Jesus knew we would struggle with enemies too, and some of the most challenging teaching in the Bible is directed at our response to people we just don't like. Read Colossians 3:12-14. What do you think it means to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, gentleness, and patience?

What does it look like to "forgive others as the Lord forgave you"?

What stands in the way of doing so?

How would you advise a brother or sister in Christ who shared they just couldn't forgive someone who hurt them?

Are there any specific steps you need to take immediately to forgive someone who has wronged you?

TAKING IT HOME

☞ What step do you need to take this week to act a little less like Jonah and a little more like Jesus?

☞ If you haven't done so yet, consider taking the Jonah challenge and read through the book of Jonah (it's only 48 verses) at least once this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS