

Jonah 1 (Part 2) and 2

Review from last week:

- **Great book to read in a spiritual dry season**
 - When dry, let Scripture remind us of what God is like.
 - His attributes, character, heart, strength, actions, initiating, love
- **Each chapter reveals the same 2 themes:**
 1. **God's Heart**
 - Love for the lost
 - How He initiates, intervenes, never gives up on Jonah/Ninevites
 2. **Jonah's Heart (ours)**
 - God's call immediately revealed Jonah's twisted heart
 - Our bent toward: running, hiding, rebelling, sinning
- **Jonah was a powerful prophet in bad & good times for Israel**
 - Israel (northern kingdom) was losing territory from surrounding pagan nations
 - Abysmal & evil leadership (Jeroboam II)
 - God rescued Israel; spoke thru Jonah who prophesied a turnaround
 - Israel prospered economically & politically, but was sinking spiritually
 - Jonah was fiercely nationalistic for Israel
- **Assyrian Empire dominated known world & was coming for Israel**
 - Most blood-thirsty and cruel military oppressor in human history
 - Arch-enemy of Israel
 - All current prophets (Amos, Hosea, Jonah) already knew:
 - Assyria would conquer Israel (40 yrs later)
 - God would judge/destroy Nineveh (150 yrs later)
- **God called Jonah to preach to city of Nineveh (Assyrian capital)**
 - Jonah refused and fled the "Presence of the Lord"
 - God's call made no sense theologically or politically
 - Boarded a ship to head to Tarshish (furthest possible point west)

Jonah Flees the Presence of the LORD

1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ²"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." ³But 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's possible reasons for fleeing God's call

1. Race, Nationalism & superiority of Israel (Jonah's real heart's desire)
2. Hated God's plan. Reveled in his comfortable ministry & worldview
3. Hated God's heart for the lost (outside Israel)
4. Did not see God's grace to himself or Israel
5. Minimized his own sin. Imagined it would bring better results. No grief.
6. Ran from a real relationship with God. Religious, but wouldn't be challenged by God

* Notably absent: fear

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⁴ 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. ⁶ So the captain came and said to him, "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 Is Thrown into the Sea

⁷ And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸ Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" 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." ¹⁰ Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing 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 quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. ¹² 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." ¹³ Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. ¹⁴ Therefore they called out to the LORD, "O LORD, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you." ¹⁵ So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶ Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

A Great Fish Swallows Jonah

¹⁷ And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Shallow-Christian identities explain why professing Christians can be racists and greedy materialists, addicted to beauty & pleasure—or filled with anxiety and prone to overwork. It's not Christ's love, but the world's power, approval, comfort. These are the real roots of self-identity...[and] any identity based on your own achievement & performance is an insecure one. You are never sure you have enough. But it also means that you always need to reinforce it by contrasting yourself with—and being hostile to—those who are different."

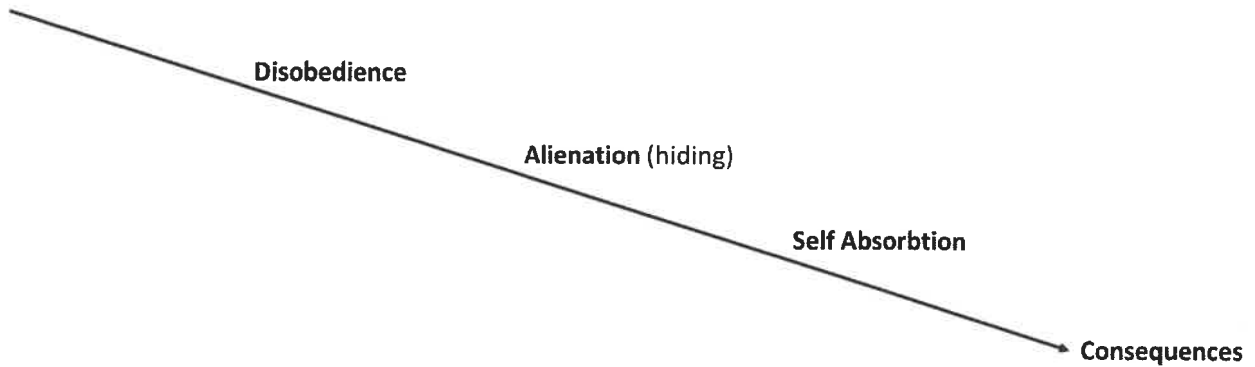
Results?

- ✓ Blindness to one's real self
- ✓ Hostility, rather than respect, for people who are different
- ✓ An excluding identity. Focusing on their 'strangeness' and reducing them until dehumanized

Tim Keller

REGRESSION PATTERN OF SIN

Sin (insert mine here)



Jonah's Actions	Lord's Actions
(3) Ran away <i>(Disobedience)</i>	(1) Came to Jonah
(5) Went below deck; slept <i>(Alienation; Self Absorption)</i>	(4) Hurled a great wind
(12) wants to die <i>(Self-absorption, consequences)</i>	(6-8) Confronted Jonah: - via Captain to call on God - via lots to force confession
(17) Certain death in the sea <i>(Consequences)</i>	(14-16) Prompts pagan sailors to: - cry to the Lord - fear the Lord - offer sacrifice to the Lord - make vows to the Lord
	(17) Provides a fish to swallow/rescue

What do we notice about this sequence of events? What do we notice about God?

The Sign of Jonah (Matt 12)

³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ 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. ⁴¹ 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.

Signs Pointing to a Better Jonah

JONAH	JESUS
HEART FOR SINNERS	
Said “No” to God’s will	Said “Not my will, but yours be done”
Fled. No compassion for unbelievers	Faithful. Extended grace to unbelievers
Excluded outsiders	Welcomed the despised and the outcasts
Judged the sinners	Took the judgment for sinners
Hated the sinners	Wept over the sinners
Proud to stay apart from sinners	Humbled Himself to live among the sinners
SCAPEGOAT (Lev 16: 8-10)	
Day of Atonement: 2 goats chosen, by lot, to bear sins of community by death & banishment #1 – slain #2 - sent into wilderness to die	
Selected by lot (chance) to die for others	Freely took the role to die (both goats)
Motivations: mixed & sinful	Motivations: love for Father & the guilty
Took the wrath of the waves so sailors would not have to	Took the wrath of God so we would not have to
SATISFIED GOD’S WRATH	
When Jonah went under the water, the storm switched off – like a light switch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus’ sacrifice was a “propitiation” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Satisfying God’s wrath ○ Took the full, divine condemnation ○ Profound separation from Father ○ At that point, it was DONE • Curtain in the temple tore in two from the top to the bottom
3 DAYS & NIGHTS IN HEART OF THE EARTH	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Near-death experience in the belly of fish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ His life is restored ○ Nineveh receives life • Dress rehearsal for Jesus’ resurrection • Fish vomited Jonah out of Sheol (place of the dead) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actually dead in tomb: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ He is resurrected ○ Wins eternal life for all believers • Fulfilled the sign of Jonah • Death could not hold Jesus

JONAH	JESUS
REPENT AND BELIEVE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resisted repentance, then believed. • Baptized by a watery judgment that washed him with God's cleansing mercy. • Ninevites (sinners) responded by repenting & believing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had no personal sin from which to repent, yet took on our sin. • Identified with our sins in His baptism. • Both warns/promises that salvation is possible for anyone who repents & believes in Him (including Ninevites, Scribes & Pharisees)

HOW was Jonah transformed/renewed by God?

3 Big things:

1. **AWAKENING** (owning his true condition)
2. **BELIEVING** (faith in God & his future sparked)
3. **REPENTING**

Jonah's Prayer

2 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, ² saying,

"I called out to the LORD, out of my distress,

and he answered me;

out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

³ For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.

⁴ Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.'

⁵ The waters closed in over me to take my

life;

the deep surrounded me;

weeds were wrapped about my head

⁶ at the roots of the mountains.

I went down to the land

whose bars closed upon me forever;

yet you brought up my life from the pit,

O LORD my God.

⁷ When my life was fainting away,

I remembered the LORD,

and my prayer came to you,

into your holy temple.

⁸ Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love.

⁹ But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you;

what I have vowed I will pay.

Salvation belongs to the LORD!"

¹⁰ And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.