

Jonah the Reluctant Prophet

Intro:

1. Jonah was a real prophet - **2 Kings 14:25**
2. Jesus mentions Jonah by name [Matthew 12:39-41](#)

Main Idea: *The greatest lessons are in how God dealt with his reluctance.*

I. Sometimes God gives us a ministry we do not want.

A. **What was the assignment (or ministry) God gave Jonah to do?** - [Jonah 1:1-2](#) *"The word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.""*

1. To "cry against" - is a synonym for prophesying or proclaiming a decree.
2. About God: He never sends a prophet to proclaim judgement without the expectation that they would take it to heart and repent.

B. **What was Jonah's response to the ministry he was receiving from God?** - [Jonah 1:3](#) *"But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord."* _____

1. What is the direction that Jonah took that is repeated? _____
2. When you go in this direction, it takes you away from who? _____

3. Application:

- a. Has there ever been a time God gave you an assignment you did not want?
- b. Have you ever run away from someone or some place?

II. When we keep running from God's will, things go from bad to worse:

A. **How did God impede Jonah's progress to rebel?** [Jonah 1:4-5](#) *"The Lord hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up. Then the sailors became afraid and every man cried to his god, and they threw the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down and fallen sound asleep."* _____

1. What other ways does God stop believers from going their own way? _____

B. **How did God expose Jonah's rebellion?** - [Jonah 1:7](#) *"Each man said to his mate, "Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity has struck us." So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah."* [Jonah 1:10](#) — **10** *Then the men became extremely frightened and they said to him, "How could you do this?" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them."*

1. What does exposing the sin of His people suppose to accomplish? _____

C. **Underline how things got even worst for Jonah?** - Read [Jonah 1:11-13](#) — "**11** So they said to him, "What should we do to you that the sea may become calm for us?"—for the sea was becoming **increasingly stormy**. **12** 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 on account of me this great storm has come upon you." **13** However, the men rowed desperately to return to land but they could not, for the **sea was becoming even stormier** against them."

1. There is a momentum of cause and effect that is gained when we delay in returning to the Lord. _____

D. **Observation - Three things Jonah lost when He rebelled against God:**

1. He lost his _____. - [Jonah 1:6](#) — "How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god..."
2. He lost his _____. - "... Perhaps your god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish.""
3. He lost his _____. -v10 "How could you do this?"

III. The final consequence of Jonah' rebellion.

A. **Since Jonah had yet to repent, what was the consequence for him?** [Jonah 1:15-17](#) "So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging. Then the men feared the Lord greatly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights."

1. How do the consequences of our bad choices affect others around us? _____

2. What does this chapter teach about the futility of saying no to God? _____
