



**JONAH: GOD OF  
2<sup>ND</sup> CHANCES**  
“God’s Call on Our  
Lives & Our Choice”  
*Jonah 1 May 4, 2014*

**1. God’s \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 1**

- God has a heart for the nations
- God wants \_\_\_\_\_ men to be saved
- God wants us to be His messengers & His light

**2. God’s \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 1-10**

- **Jonah Disobeys God’s Call**
  - Wrong attitude towards the \_\_\_\_\_ of God
  - Wrong attitude towards the \_\_\_\_\_ of God
  - Wrong attitude towards his circumstances
  - Wrong attitude towards the \_\_\_\_\_
- **Jonah Becomes a Curse Instead of a Blessing**
  - He lost the \_\_\_\_\_ of God
  - He lost his spiritual energy
  - He lost his \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_
  - He lost his \_\_\_\_\_

**3. God’s \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 10-16**

- His Decision
- His Doom

**4. God’s \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 17**

- God Provided a Fish
- God Wrought a \_\_\_\_\_

**Our “2<sup>nd</sup> Chance”**

- + Maybe today or this week or this year someone has been God’s messenger to you and you need to respond to His loving Call in your life! It’s as simple as ABC! **Admit** you are a sinner, **Believe** that Jesus is God’s Son, **Confess** Him as Savior and **Commit** your life to Him as Lord for the rest of your life!!
- + Be willing to step over the line this morning and be obedient in what He is calling you to do. Maybe it is join this church family and honor Him by not attending but joining His family and being a part of bringing the good news to our community and to the ends of the earth!
- + Let’s confess and repent of the wrong attitudes we have had toward God and His desire for us to share.
- + Let’s recognize what we have lost as a result of our disobedience and running from the Lord. Let’s commit to being a blessing instead of a curse to others.
- + Let’s praise God for His patience with us and recognize the fact that He provides for us even in our disobedience and rebellion.
- + Let’s be willing to share the Gospel this week with one person who you know He is calling you to share with in your life! Who is that person – Write it down here Commit to pray for them, for an opportunity to share with them and for you to bold enough to share.
- + Perhaps today there are storms in your life and you know you to refocus your life, for you have wandered away from the what He has called you today and you have wandered far away from home and God’s Call on your life and you need to come back home.
- + For someone today, you have been running form God’s clear call on your life to serve Him in full time Christian Service. Stop running and just surrender today.

# JONAH: THE GOD OF 2<sup>ND</sup> CHANCES

“God’s Call on Our Lives & Our Choice”

*Jonah 1*

May 4, 2014 AM Service

## **Brief Introduction to Jonah**

- Mentioned only once in the OT outside of the book of Jonah  
2 Kings 14:25 identifies him as the son of Amittai and a prophet during the reign of King Jeroboam II (786-746)
- The people of Nineveh were horribly wicked and God’s judgment was coming on them for their unashamed wickedness and sin!
- This is not some allegory or parable to just illustrate a truth, this is real story about a real man and most importantly about the work of Almighty God in all things, through His creation.
- Jesus referred to Jonah as a real historical figure and compared his death to that of Jonah in the belly of that fish for 3 days
- The book of Jonah is about God’s will and being obedient to it and also God’s great love for the whole world.
- The God of 2<sup>nd</sup> Chances – He provides them for Nineveh and Jonah too. For some of us this month, God will do the same for us too, even this morning – give us a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance!

## **1. God’s Plan** Vs 1

- God has a heart for the nations
- God wants all men to be saved
- God wants us to be his messengers, to be His light in a dark world  
He has blessed us to be a blessing, just as God had done with the nation of Israel to be a blessing to those surrounding nations.

## **2. God’s Patience** Vs 1-10

Thank God for his great patience with us as His children. He loves us deeply and will do whatever it takes to get us in His will because He knows that is where will be the most satisfied and joy filled.

Do you and I realize today how patient God is with us.

Comparison to a parent with your children? Compare the two

### **▪ Jonah Disobeys God’s Call – Outright Rebellion**

Let’s give Jonah some credit, he wasn’t lukewarm, he was cold

and not hot. At least he wasn't playing the game!  
He decides to go as far as from Nineveh as possible to Tarshish  
He was running from God.

What is your Tarshish and Nineveh this morning?

Nineveh being the place of obedience and faithfulness and  
Tarshish being the place of escape and disobedience?

It doesn't have to be a call to go somewhere, it is simply God's call  
to obedience, to put Him first in our lives.

We don't have to physically run somewhere before our soul run off  
We can run away by filling our lives full of activities that time for  
God is squeezed out and church is squeezed out. Some of us are  
running off in all directions but not under God's direction.

So think with me, what is your Nineveh this morning?

If you want to disobey, there will always be a ship prepared to take  
you to Tarshish.

What is your Tarshish? Your marriage? Your job? God's calling  
you to a specific task? Your children? Your quiet time?

Put it another way, where and in what are you running towards  
God and in what areas of your life are you running away from  
Him?

- **Wrong attitude towards the will of God**

It should have been his spiritual nourishment as it was to Jesus,  
but instead Jonah it was a medicine that choked him!

It was impossible! To go to his enemy and give them a chance  
to repent instead of seeing God destroy it. No way.

Comparison for us: Iraq or Afghanistan, or somebody here,  
different race or socioeconomic status

God called him to Nineveh because he loved Jonah and Nineveh

**Do you love and embrace the will of God? Are you in the  
center of God's will for your life?**

- **Wrong attitude towards the Word of God**

God has spoken to him, and he thought he could take it or leave  
it. Disobedience isn't an option.

Yet, we do the same, I'll obey this part but not this part!

The downward progression of sin starts with small disobedience

and ends in total spiritual disaster.

He forgot the incredible privilege he had as a prophet, sharing God's great message of forgiveness and grace

Jonah in a sense resigns because he knew he couldn't run away from God even though he tried

*Jonah needed Nineveh as much as Nineveh needed Jonah!*

- **Wrong attitude towards his circumstances**

Jonah thought everything was working for him right ship, enough money, able to go down in the ship and fall asleep.

When in fact everything was working against him.

It is possible to be out of the will of God and still have circumstances appear to be working on your behalf.

God in His providence was preparing Jonah for a great fall.

- **Wrong attitude towards the Gentiles**

Instead of wanting to help find the true and living God, he wanted to abandon them to their darkness and spiritual death!

Jonah gleefully rubbed his hand instead of being dismayed and burdened over the millions of souls who would go to hell

He hated not their sins, he hated the sinners. Better that they should be destroyed than attack Israel later!

**ILLUS: Samaritans: A people you hate!!**

- **Jonah Becomes a Curse Instead of a Blessing**

Instead of being that light and blessing, he now becomes trouble to these sailors, but yet watch later how God will also use these circumstances to give these pagans sailors a glimpse of Him and how great and awesome He truly is.

God sends storms into the lives of His people to wake them up from the slumber of sin!

What an incredible witnessing opportunity he had but missed with these sailors. Yet God still prevails and shows Himself in spite of Jonah. Our disobedience always affects others.

- **He lost the voice of God**

God had been speaking to Him, but no longer was He speaking to Him by His word, but by the wind, rain and the waves!

Do you and I still hear God speaking to us through His word or is He sending things into our lives other than that to get our attention. Many times we give Satan way too much credit, when perhaps it is God who is trying to get our attention through our circumstances. That is what God was doing with Jonah

- **He lost his spiritual energy**

He was sound asleep in the middle of a huge storm. He was unconcerned about anyone else but himself.

What a message today for us. He was asleep, as so too is the church today. Satan is doing his best to lull us to sleep think all is well, when it isn't!! Our community, state, country, and world is in great peril today! Do we care? I have spent this week with people who are struggling mightily – we must hear it and we must care and we must do something about it!

- **He lost his power in prayer**

These pagan sailors are praying to every god in the book, yet the one man on board who knew the true and living God was asleep! God wouldn't have heard his prayer until he repented anyway! If he did pray, it wasn't answered.

**Praying, bouncing back at you**, perhaps there is unconfessed sin in your life that is keeping you from that relationship.

- **He lost his testimony**

Jonah had no message for these men except that he was running from God. The reason for all this was because he was being punished and they were scared out of their minds

These sailors truly cared more about Jonah than he did about them. His name meant peace, but he was certainly not living up to that name! He had brought anything but peace.

**ILLUS: Can you think of a time you lost your testimony**, blew it! What did you do?

Paul did not miss his opportunity on a ship that was in great danger and wrecked. He shared everything was going to be ok, God had told him, and he was in the center of Gods' will. What a great contrast.

### 3. God's Pursuit Vs 10-16

- **His (Jonah's) Decision**

Notice here, Jonah had decision, but he truly makes the wrong one. He could have repented right then and there, and it seems logical to think that God would have calmed the storm, things would have been different. But he doesn't consult God again, he says just throw me overboard and everything will be ok. Jonah puts it off on these poor sailors, he doesn't even throw himself into the sea!

- **His (Jonah's) Doom**

Throw him overboard, even though these sailors did not want to, even though this pagan captain had urged him to call on his God. But yet there was no other place for Jonah, he would not repent and things were not going to change until he did, he sealed his own fate and discipline.

And the waves and winds cease, the sailors had an encounter with God. Don't know if they followed God and gave Him their lives, but they had seen the awesome power of God they had never seen before. Maybe Jonah got to talk them later, who knows?

### 4. God's Provision Vs 17

**God Provided a Fish** (A Big one, yes there are some records in history of people being swallowed whole by a fish and living) But the emphasis is not so much on the fish as God already had an answer, something in His plan waiting for Jonah to get his attention, why? because He hated him, no because He loved him! The storms in your life are not to pay you back for you sin but to bring you back from sin. The storms are designed not for retribution for our restoration.

- **God Wrought a Miracle**

Not about the fish, history, whale, etc. God made a miracle happen! That is enough for me. I believe it!! God did it to get Jonah's attention and it sure gets mine too!

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