



## **Running Avoids Obeying (Jonah 1)**

The only other time that Jonah is mentioned is II Kings 14:25. Jonah was a true prophet of God, but his hatred of Nineveh interrupted his obedience to God.

Objects of Obedience: Forgiveness, Worship, Witnessing, Fellowship

### **1. God's Call Demands Obedience, Not Options (Jonah 1:1-3)**

- Jonah went in the opposite direction of where God called him. It is impossible to follow God when you disobey in ANY way!
- Nineveh was east (Assyria) and Tarshish was west (Spain)
- Nineveh was known as being a cruel empire and many of the Israelites hated them.
- Disobedience begins when we treat God's Word as negotiable. We run from God not with our feet first, but with our minds and then our hearts.

### **2. Running from God brings trouble to ourselves and others (Jonah 1:4-12)**

- God uses outward circumstances to reveal the true condition of the inward direction
- Our words can be religious while our actions are irreverent
- Running from God NEVER brings peace, only storms to break your rebellion and often those storms impact people in your life: for better and sometimes worse

### **3. Repentance brings restoration of relationship and calling (Jonah 1:13-17)**

- The sailors tried to please God on their own, but they submitted to His way
- The sailors sacrifice to God (Yahweh) in response to His mercy
- Notice: Jonah has not changed yet. The salvation of others does NOT imply that we are walking right with God!

Running from God avoids obeying His Word, but no distance can outrun His mercy. When we surrender to His command, He calms the storms and restores our purpose.

1. What motivates people today to run from God's call?  
Compare Exodus 4:10–14 (Moses' excuses) and Luke 9:59–62 (Jesus' call to discipleship).
2. How does personal disobedience affect others around us? Reflect on Joshua 7:1–12 (Achan's sin) and Romans 5:12 (Adam's sin affecting all).
3. What does Jonah's attitude toward Nineveh reveal about Israel's view of God's mercy?  
Cross-reference Genesis 12:3 (Abraham's blessing to all nations) and Romans 10:12–13.
4. How does God use storms to bring us back to Himself? See Hebrews 12:5–11 (discipline of sons) and Psalm 119:67 (Before I was afflicted I went astray).
5. Why did the pagan sailors respond in faith when Jonah did not? Compare with Matthew 8:10–12 (faith of the centurion) and Acts 10:34–35 (Cornelius' faith).
6. What lessons can we learn from Jonah about repentance and surrender?  
See II Chronicles 7:14, Luke 15:17–24, and I John 1:9.
7. How is Jonah a foreshadowing of Christ's death and resurrection?  
Compare Jonah 1:17 with Matthew 12:40 and I Corinthians 15:3–4.
8. How does Jonah's time in the great fish (Hebrew: dag gadol) compare to Jesus' time in the grave (Matthew 12:40)?
9. If you would like to read other passages that support Jonah 1, read Deuteronomy 5:32–33; I Samuel 15:22; Matthew 28:19–20; Acts 1:8; Numbers 32:23; Proverbs 13:15; Galatians 6:7–8; Mark 4:37–39; Psalm 51:10–12; Isaiah 55:7; Luke 15:11–24; II Peter 3:9.