

## Our Mission:

To share Christ with the world and grow disciples for



### **The Text: Jonah 1: 1-17, 3: 1-10**

**1** <sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: <sup>2</sup>“Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.” <sup>3</sup>But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

<sup>4</sup>Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup>All the sailors were afraid, and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. <sup>6</sup>The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.”

<sup>7</sup>Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. <sup>8</sup>So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”

<sup>9</sup>He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

<sup>10</sup>This terrified them, and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the Lord because he had already told them so.) <sup>11</sup>The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So, they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

<sup>12</sup>“Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.” <sup>13</sup>Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. <sup>14</sup>Then they cried out to the Lord, “Please, Lord, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, Lord, have done as you pleased.” <sup>15</sup>Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. <sup>16</sup>At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.

<sup>17</sup>Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

**3** <sup>1</sup>Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: <sup>2</sup>“Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.” <sup>3</sup>Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” <sup>5</sup>The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

<sup>6</sup>When Jonah’s warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. <sup>7</sup>This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. <sup>8</sup>But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. <sup>9</sup>Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

### Background:

Jonah is the original reluctant prophet, but this story likely reflects exactly how the intended hearers would have responded as well. No one in all of Israel would shed any tears if the city that had sent legions of warriors to decimate their land was itself destroyed. Nineveh was the seat of power for the Assyrian Empire, the enemies of Israel. Yet from the emperor to the poorest peasant they do what would seem to be impossible; they sincerely repent and God recants of his judgment against them – a real miracle.

### Theology Connection:

Many times, in the Exodus we see God’s anger with the Israelites, but he always relented. In this parable we see that God’s favor is not only extended to Israel but to her neighbors as well. Even the enemies of Israel will be spared from God’s judgement. Indeed, this is the Gospel as we know it. Forgiveness is offered. We can either accept or deny the gift as we turn away from sin. Upon receipt of the gift thanksgiving follows.

### Application:

This story is not about a whale, but about a turning around. First Jonah attempts to escape God but must turn around to complete the task given him. Then Nineveh turns from its sin accepting God’s judgment and is spared. Jonah in his righteousness is not too happy with either circumstance, but God in his righteousness is eager to see a change of heart. Do we need to make a course correction in our life?

Jonah 1: 1-17, 3: 1-10

We know the story of Jonah.

We know this story because Jonah is not that much different from us. Jonah wants justice not reconciliation with his enemies. Jonah wants revenge not mercy for his adversaries. Jonah imagines he knows best, and that God has made a big mistake. This is us! When was the last time you knew what you 'should do' but you just didn't want to do it? When was the last time your conscience kept bugging you no matter how hard you tried to silence it? When was the last time that you were glad that those around you had no idea you were a follower of Christ?

We have just participated in a rancorous election in this country. We may not as yet know the outcome. Will we be instruments of reconciliation or will we continue to fan the flames of partisan divide?

Peace,  
Pal

Please read Jonah 1: 1-17, 3: 1-10

I think it was God's grace, that caused Jonah to be swallowed by a whale, and not digested for three days and three nights, in the belly of that whale!! God could have carried out His plans with a more responsive individual.

However, God's grace permitted the reluctant Jonah to have a second chance. God's grace gave Jonah a second opportunity to fulfil His plans and purposes in his life.

Some of God's servants are willing people. Others can be resistant to God's plan like Jonah.

How grateful we should be, when God uses the circumstances of life to cause us to fulfill His plans and purposes in our lives.

Let us pray:

Dear God, may we have ears that are open to your call and hearts that is ready to carry out your plan in in our lives. Thank you for guiding us in our daily lives. In Jesus name, we pray, Amen.

One day, God told Jonah that He had a special job for him. God told Jonah that He wanted him to go to the city of Nineveh and warn the people there that He would destroy their city if they didn't stop being bad! Jonah was mad that God had asked him to do this! He was scared of this city, and the people who lived there. Instead of going to Nineveh, Jonah decided that he would go as far away from Nineveh as he could! He hoped God would pick somebody else to go and warn the people. So, Jonah got onto a ship that was going far away. He was really tired, and once he got on board, he went to the bottom of the ship to hide and take a nap. But God knew exactly where Jonah was! God wasn't happy with Jonah at all. He caused a huge storm, and the sailors were afraid that their ship would sink. They started throwing everything overboard to lighten the ship. They all started praying to their Gods to save them, but the storm got worse! Jonah knew what the problem was, and he knew that there was only one thing to do.

God wouldn't stop the storm until Jonah obeyed Him. So, Jonah told the sailors to throw him overboard. As soon as Jonah hit the water the storm went calm, he started sinking. God sent a huge fish to swallow him up!

1. What should we do when we do something wrong?

Memorize It!

Hebrews 4:13 "Nothing in all creation can hide from Him."

Pray:

Dear God,  
Thank You for being our Heavenly Father. We know that we can always come to You when we do something wrong and be forgiven!  
Amen!