I Am Jonah

Greg Kline · Jonah 1:1–4:11

INTRODUCTION

- Imagine how bad a man must be if he was going to put Christians to death.
- Do we give them the same benefit of the doubt that we do in our minds, Saul or Paul?
- We know in 1 Timothy chapter 2 that God desires that all men be saved.

1 God Said Go Here, Jonah Said No

Jonah 1:1–16; 2 Kings 14:25

- Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.
- So simply put, God said, Go here, and Jonah said, No, I'm going to go there.
- Jonah, the prophet of God, the messenger of God, is told to go and teach the very people that just decades later would come and take the people of Israel into captivity.
- They were known for being ruthless, for being menacing as a nation.
- Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly. And they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

2 Nineveh Repented and God Relented

Jonah 3:1–10

- His message is repent, or you are going to perish.
- When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.
- The Gentiles at the time of the law of Moses could be saved too.
- Here's Jonah, the prophet of God, who, when God says go, he says no. But the people of Nineveh, when given the chance to repent, did.

3 Jonah's Hang Up: He Did Not Love His Enemies

Jonah 4:1–2; Matthew 5; 1 Timothy 2

- But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry.
- For I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and relenting from disaster.
- He knew God would forgive them. He knew God had it in him to forgive, and he did not want those people to have that forgiveness.
- But is there any greater love than caring for the souls of all mankind?
- If I decide I am not going to teach someone about Christ, the only thing that I am guaranteeing is that they will never come to Christ because of me.

4 Jonah Lacked Humble Compassion

Jonah 4:3–11; Matthew 18:23–35; Luke 15:25–32

- Jonah lacked humble compassion. I want to zone in on these two words to complete the lesson this morning.
- And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left.
- And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant as I had mercy on you.
- I'm forgiven by God of that unpayable debt. Without the blood of Christ, I could not be saved.
- The older brother of the prodigal son lacked the humble compassion that Jonah lacked.

5 Will I Do These Same Things Jonah Did?

Acts 9:1–17; Acts 22:16

- But without the grace of God, without the blood of Jesus, I would not dare want what's coming to me.
- I need to realize I need Jesus just as much as anybody else.
- Lord, I've heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem.
- Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Brothers and sisters, it is time to teach. It is time to have compassion. Remembering that I was a sinner too.**

MY NOTES