Jonah – The Compassion of God

Adam Willingham · Jonah 1 · Series: **Obedience**

INTRODUCTION

- When you think of the book of Jonah, what's the first thing that comes to your mind? Well, obviously, the fish.
- But really, what the message and the thrust of the book is, it is the compassion of God.
- It is the compassion of God that is driven home time and time again all through the book.

1 Jonah Flees

Jonah 1:1–17; 2 Kings 14:25

- The fact that God was reaching out to Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria, shows us that God was not only interested in the Israelites.
- God is everywhere. And, brethren, it doesn't matter if we go to New York or if we go to South Africa or China or where we go, God is there.
- Now, brethren, when God tells us to go east, we need to go east.
- If God tells us to go east, and we're going west, then our confession of Him is empty.
- Apparently he was more willing to die than he was to repent. And so let that be a lesson to us, not to be stubborn in our ways.

2 Jonah Prays

- This is not a prayer for deliverance out of the belly of the fish? This is a prayer of thanksgiving for the fish.
- So let us be thankful, not only in our bad situations, but also for our bad situations.
- I will sacrifice to you with the voice of thanksgiving that which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the Lord.
- In essence, this is also a prayer of repentance.
- So you and I need to repent while we're still on the boat.

3 Jonah Preaches

Jonah 3:1–10

- That's the same thing God said the first time. He didn't change what he said. It's just Jonah was now in a different situation.
- What our attitude needs to be toward his word is we're going to do what God tells us to do the first time. Every time.
- You may think to yourself, I'll have another chance later. Well, you may not have another chance later.
- You would never expect the Ninevites to repent. But the Ninevites, these wicked people, they repent.

- Our God is a consuming fire. But he is also a God of mercy. And he will turn and relent when people repent.

4 Jonah Became Angry at God's Compassion

Exodus 34:6–7; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4

- For I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in loving kindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.
- We must never begrudge God's grace upon others because we rely upon it desperately.
- What we must do, brethren, is we must strive to be like our God. And our God is compassionate. And therefore we must be compassionate to those who are lost.
- We are more concerned about our personal comfort than we are about God's word and about these lost souls that are all around us.
- Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand.
- If you believe that people are lost, but you continue to do nothing to help them, what does that say about our heart?

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **So come to the Lord, believing in him, confessing his name, repenting of your sin, and being baptized in order to obtain your salvation. And then continue to go east when the Lord says, Go east.**

MY NOTES