



Series: Running From God

Sermon: Part 1: My Way Is The Best Way

Date: Sunday, September 15th, 2024

Biblical prophet: A person who was the mouthpiece of God to His people giving them instructions, encouragements, and even warnings

The Word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before Me." (Jonah 1:1-2)

God Tells Jonah To:

1. _____ to the great city of Nineveh

2. _____ to them and warn them

The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

He [King Jeroboam II] was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Dead Sea, in accordance with the Word of the Lord, the God of Israel, spoken through his servant Jonah son of Amittai... (2 Kings 14:25)

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 [Jonah] went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord. (Jonah 1:3)

Woe to the city of blood, full of lies, full of plunder, never without victims! Many casualties, piles of dead, bodies without number, people stumbling over the corpses - all because of the wanton lust of a prostitute, alluring, the mistress of sorceries, who enslaved nations by her prostitution and peoples by her witchcraft. (Nahum 3:1,2-4)

_____ to God is very costly to us and to others and when we insist on going our own way without God's leading, we can also end up forfeiting all His blessings.

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? If I go up to the Heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there. (Psalm 139:7-8)

Whatever the reason Jonah had for trying to flee, it is very clear that Jonah's problem is not with the Ninevites, but with _____.

Does God know best or do we know best? Do I trust God or do I trust me?



Instead of trusting God in the unknowns and running to Him, many of us start to trust _____ and run from Him.

Ways We Can Run From God:

- 1. By being immoral or irreligious**
- 2. By being moral**
- 3. By being religious**

Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. 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. (Jonah 1:4-5)

Sin eventually brings a _____.

Trust God and run to Him? Or trust yourself and run from Him?

There are storms that come as a result of our sin, but also know that not all difficulties that happen to us in life are a result of our sin.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2-4)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Bottom Line: *We can choose to allow the storms in life to drive us to God or drive us away from God.*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

- 1. When God asks you to do something hard, how do you typically respond? Do you say yes and follow God's will or do you say no? If you say no, what is your reasoning?*
- 2. In what ways are you running from God? In what area of your life are you hiding from God?*
- 3. How has God used a storm in your life to try to draw you back to Him?*

Songs used in service: Trust It All (North Point Worship), Quien Dices Que Soy (Hillsong Worship), Same God (Elevation Worship), Great Is Thy Faithfulness (Thomas Chisholm), Praise You Anywhere (Brandon Lake)

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Any prayer requests?

Name _____ **Date:** _____ **Email:** _____

What can we be praying for you about?