

“I Am Jonah!”
Jonah 1:1 - 4:11

Introduction:

1. Please Head Back With Me To The Book Of Jonah!
 - Where We Will Be For The Last Time:
 - For Our Series Through Jonah!
 - We Have Worked Our Way Through This Book:
 - Slowly - Because So Often:
 - We Don't!
 - But I Believe That In Jonah Especially:
 - Many Fresh And Precious Truths:
 - Are Brought To Our Minds & Our Hearts!
 - When We Look At It:
 - The Way We Have!
2. Last Week:
 - We Learned That The Book Of Jonah:
 - Is Not Simply A Story About:
 - A Man Swallowed By A Fish!
 - No - In Fact - The Book Is:
 - Primarily A Book About The Lord!
 - Where We Learn More Good News About God Than Bad News About Jonah!
 - And One Of The Greatest Things We Learn About God:
 - Is His Nature & His Character!
 - Which We Not Only See, But We Also Hear About In 4:2 - When Jonah Says - “For I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness!”
 - But The Book Of Jonah:
 - Is Also About Us!
 - About You & About Me!
 - As Sinclair Ferguson Wrote:
 - “You Are Jonah; I Am Jonah! We Recognize Ourselves In The Story Of This Man's Life! We stand Together In Need Of The Mercy Of God To Enable Us, From This Day On, To Be Obedient To His Commands, And To Live To The Praise Of His Glorious Grace!”
3. Have You Seen Yourself In Jonah:
 - As We Have Explored This Book Together?
 - I Know I Sure Have!
 - At So Many Times In Our Lives!
 - And In So Many Ways – We Are Jonah!
 - And In Most Cases, That Is Not A Good Thing!
 - But I Want You To Know:
 - When You See Yourself In Jonah:
 - There Is Hope! And There Is Help!
 - When You See Yourself In Jonah:
 - There Is One Who Is Greater Than Jonah:
 - That You Can Look To!
 - Who You Can Trust In!
 - Who You Can Be In!
 - In Matthew 12:41 - Jesus Himself Was Talking With:
 - Certain Of The Scribes & Pharisees And Said:
 - “Behold, A Greater Than Jonah Is Here!”
 - He Was Talking About Himself!
 - The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - Is Greater Than Jonah!
 - And When You See Yourself In Jonah:
 - Jesus Is The Only One Who Can:
 - Redeem You & Correct You & Change You:
 - From Your Weakness & Your Failures & Your Sins!
 - When You See Yourself In Jonah:

- I Want You To Know That You Can Find Your True In The Lord Jesus Christ!

4. So What Are Some Of The Ways & When Are Some Of The Times:
- That We See Ourselves In Jonah?

* First:

1. *In Times Of Duty!*

- Remember Where We First Met Jonah?
 - It Wasn't In The Book Of Jonah!
 - It Was Back In 2 Kings 14:25 - Where He Was On Another Mission From God Back In His Home Country Of Israel!
 - And God Granted Him & His People Some Success:
 - Through His Prophecy From The Lord!
 - And We Can Imagine That This Made Jonah:
 - Very Popular With His People!
 - And Perhaps His Life Became Very Comfortable!
 - Because At That Point, The People Liked What Jonah Had To Say!
 - But Then We Come To Jonah 1:1-2 - "Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, / Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me!"
 - This Probably Shook Jonah To His Core!
 - Why Would He Want To Leave All Of The Comforts Of His Home In Israel & Travel All The Way To Nineveh!
 - At This Point, His Ministry As A Prophet Of God Became A Mere Duty Instead Of A Delight!
 - And He Didn't Want To Go!
- Do You See Yourself In Jonah Here?
 - So Many Times:
 - Walking With The Lord & Serving The Lord:
 - Can Be Such A Delightful Thing!
 - There Is Joy In Our Hearts!
 - A Smile On Our Faces!
 - And Even A Spring In Our Steps!
 - But Then - God Calls On Us:
 - To Do Something Else – Outside Of Our Comfort Zone!
 - Or Maybe God Tells Us:
 - Go Somewhere Else We Have No Interest Or Desire To Go!
 - And Suddenly The Delight Is Gone:
 - And Our Walk With God Feels More Like A Harsh Duty Instead!
- In The Time Of Jonah's Duty:
 - He Needed To Trust In A Special Truth About God:
 - A Truth He Knew About - In 4:2 - That:
 - God Is A Gracious God!
 - And God Was Gracious:
 - To Call Him In The First Place!
 - There In 1:1!
 - But Jonah Did Not See It As:
 - A Gracious Call From The Lord!
 - And That God Himself Was Including Jonah In His Own Mission!
- In The Times Of Our Own Duty:
 - We Must Remember & Trust In The Grace Of God!
 - Especially When We "Feel" Like Giving Up Or Giving In!
 - Look At The Gracious Call The Lord Has Given You!
 - He Didn't Have To Call You!
 - He Didn't Need To! But He Wanted To!
 - 2 Timothy 1:9 - "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began!"
 - Never Forget God's Grace To Call You To Himself!

- No Matter How New Or Different Or Sudden Or Even Challenging It May Be!
- Because God Also Gives To You His Gracious Promises! Like These:
- 1 Thessalonians 5:24 - "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it!"
- And 1 Peter 5:10 - "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you!"
- In Times Of Duty:
 - Remember That God Has Been So Gracious To You:
 - To Call You To Himself!
 - And When You See Yourself In Jonah:
 - You Can Find Your True Self In Christ!
 - And His Call To You!

* Another Time We Might See Ourselves In Jonah Is:

2. ***In Times Of Disobedience!***

- Of Course This Is What We Remember Most About Jonah!
 - **IE:** Like The Chorus From The Children's Song - Jonah:
 - "Jonah! Jonah! Did Not Obey God Immediately! Jonah! Jonah! Down In The Depths Of The Deep Blue Sea!"
 - We Are Even A Little Shocked By His Disobedience:
 - In 1:3 - "But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD!"
 - Jonah Deliberately Disobeyed God!
 - In Spite Of Everything He Knew About God!
 - And He Even Tried To Run From God!
- Do You See Yourself In Jonah Here?
 - How Often Do We Disobey The Lord?
 - There Are Sins Of Commission!
 - When We Deliberately Disobey With Our Own Actions!
 - But There Are Sins Of Omission!
 - When We Deliberately Disobey With Our Own Inaction!
 - But When Our Consciences Are Pricked:
 - And The Holy Spirit Convicts!
 - What Do We Do? Where To We Turn?
 - All Too Often:
 - We Wallow In Our Own Guilt With Self-Pity & We Forget What God Has Already Provided For Us!
 - What Do We See Happen In Jonah's Life?
- In The Time Of Jonah's Disobedience:
 - He Experienced Another Truth About God:
 - A Truth He Also Knew - In 4:2 - That:
 - God Is A Merciful God!
 - God Was Merciful:
 - To Jonah When He Delivered Him:
 - From Drowning In The Mediterranean Sea!
 - God's Merciful Deliverance:
 - Is Seen In 1:17 - When: "The LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights!"
- But What About The Times Of Our Disobedience?
 - We Too Must Remember & Turn To The Mercy Of God!
 - Don't Run Further From The Lord!
 - **IE:** Like Our Dog, Shanti, Does When We Chase After Her! Sometimes For Her Own Good!
 - Don't Run Further From The Lord!
 - Instead, Run To The Lord!
 - Look To The Merciful Deliverance The Lord Has Provided For You!
 - Not Through A Fish!
 - But Through The One Whom That Fish Is Just A Picture / An Illustration!

- The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Ephesians 2:4-6 - “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, / Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)/ And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus!”
- So - In Times Of Disobedience:
 - Remember That God Has Shown His Mercy To You!
 - To Deliver You From Yourself!
 - And When You See Yourself In Jonah:
 - You Can Find Your True Self In Christ!
 - And His Deliverance!
 - And Then You Can Call Out To Him!
 - Even As Jonah Did From The Belly Of The Fish!
 - Hebrews 4:16 - “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need!”

* A Third Time We Often See Ourselves In Jonah Is:

3. ***In Times Of Displeasure!***

- Remember What Happened In Chapter 3 Of This Book?
 - Jonah Finally Obeyed The Lord:
 - And Went To Nineveh!
 - And When He Proclaimed God’s Message To Them:
 - Something Amazing Took Place!
 - There Was A Great Awakening!
 - And Jonah Saw & Heard Everything That Happened!
 - He Saw Their Signs Of Repentance!
 - He Heard Their Prayer Of Faith!
 - But Instead Of Great Delight In What God Did There In Nineveh, What Do We Read:
 - In 4:1 - “But It Displeased Jonah Exceedingly, And He Was Very Angry!”
- Do You See Yourself In Jonah In This?
 - Are There Times Like This In Your Life?
 - When We Feel Like We Are “Doing” All That We Are “Supposed” To Be Doing!
 - Like Jonah Likely Felt In Chapter 3!
 - Yet It “Feels” Like Nothing Is Changing Or Happening:
 - The Way *We* Think It Should!
 - And We Are Displeased!
 - We Are Displeased:
 - Because Things Aren’t Going According To Our Own Plans, Our Own Desires & Our Own Wills!
 - And Sometimes We May Even Get Angry With God!
 - **IE:** Like When An Illness Or Even A Death Takes Place In Our Lives! We Don’t Think This Is What Should Happen To Us!
 - But What Happened To Jonah?
- In The Time Of Jonah’s Displeasure:
 - He Experienced Another Great Truth About God:
 - That We See In 4:2 - That:
 - God Is Slow To Anger!
 - God Is A Long-Suffering God!
 - We Find This Truth About The Lord:
 - Many Other Times In Scripture As Well!
 - Psalm 86:15 - “But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth!”
 - God Was Long-Suffering:
 - To Jonah In His Continuing Work With Him!
 - Even Though Jonah Persisted In His Displeasure & Even Anger Toward The Lord!
 - Think About How Long-Suffering God Was Toward Jonah:
 - God Spoke To Jonah **Four Times** Throughout This Book!
 - **IE:** How Patient Were Your Parents With You, When Then Had To Tell You

- Something Over & Over Again!
 - First Time - 1:1-2 - The First Call!
 - Second Time - 3:1-2 - The Second Call!
 - Third Time - 4:4 - Kind / Gentle Question!
 - Fourth Time - 4:9-11!
- **Four Times** God Speaks To Jonah!
 - That Stubborn Prophet!
 - Why Would God Be So Patient & Long-Suffering?
 - Because God Was Dealing With & Working With Jonah As With A Son! His Own Child!
- But What About The Times Of Our Own Displeasure?
 - When Things Don't Seem To Be Going Our Way!
 - We Must Remember & Respond To How The Lord Keeps Dealing With Us & Doing His Work In Us!
 - How Does He Deal With Us?
 - Psalm 103:10 - "He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities!"
 - Instead - He Is Patient With Us & Slow To Anger!
 - Even When We Are Displeased:
 - For All The Wrong Reasons – Like Jonah!
- So - In Times Of Displeasure:
 - Remember That God Is Long-Suffering!
 - And Continues To Patiently Deal With You & Work With You:
 - Because You Are His Child! (If Saved!)
 - And When You See Yourself In Jonah:
 - You Can Find Your True Self In Christ!
 - Even As Paul Did In 1 Timothy 1:16 - "That In Me First Jesus Christ Might Show Forth All Long-Suffering!"

* And A Final Way We Often See Ourselves In Jonah Is:

4. In Times Of Distress!

- And In Times Of Despair - Like Jonah Experienced:
 - As He Was Drowning In The Sea!
 - And He Describes For Us His Feelings In Detail:
 - All Throughout His Prayer In Chapter 2!
 - After God Delivered Him With The Fish:
 - Jonah Remembered How He Felt:
 - As He Was Sinking & Drowning?
 - His Feelings, At First, Were Of Great Distress:
 - 2:2 - It Was An Affliction!
 - 2:2 - He Was In The Belly Of Hell!
 - 2:3 - He Believed God Had Cast Him Into The Deep & God's Billows & Waves Passed Over Him!
 - 2:4 - He Says - "I Am Cast Out Of Thy Sight!"
 - And It Continues All Throughout His Prayer!
- Do You See Yourself In Jonah?
 - How Often Do We Experience These Feelings:
 - Of Discouragement & Despair & Distress!
 - Probably More Than We Let Others Know, Right?
 - Well - What Was Needed:
 - In The Time Of Jonah's Distress?
 - He Needed To Trust In This Truth About God:
 - Another Truth He Knew Well - In 4:2 - That:
 - God Is Of Great Kindness!
 - And God Was So Kind To Him:
 - To Uphold Him – No Matter What He Faced!
 - The Word Translated Here "Great Kindness" Is A Very Important & Rich Hebrew Word! The Original Word: "Indicates Faithfulness To A Relationship! To Act In A Loyal, Loving Way To A Person!" (Precept Austin)
 - This Is How God Felt About Jonah!

- And How God Treated Jonah All Throughout The Whole Book!
- In Times Of Our Own Distress:
 - We Must Remember & Trust In The Goodness Of God!
 - His Faithfulness & His Kindness To Us:
 - No Matter What!
 - Isaiah 41:10 Reminds Us Of This:
 - “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness!”
 - Remember & Respond To:
 - The Lord’s Kindness To Uphold You:
 - No Matter What You Face!
 - Even When Your Distress Comes From Something You Caused Yourself! As It So Often Does!
 - Remember The Loving-Kindness Jesus Showed His Disciples?
 - Even At The Lowest Points Of Their Walk With Him?
 - John 13:1 Tells Us That: “He loved them unto the end!”
 - And He Will Do The Same For Us!
- In Times Of Distress:
 - Remember That God Is Of Great Kindness:
 - And Upholds You!
 - Even At The Lowest Points Of Your Life & Even Your Walk With Him!
 - And When You See Yourself In Jonah:
 - You Can Find Your True Self In Christ!
 - And His Goodness To You!

Conclusion:

1. So: Did You See Yourself In Jonah?
 - I Think If We Are Honest With Ourselves:
 - We See Ourselves In Jonah:
 - More Often Than We Would Like To Admit!
 - So Many Times:
 - Our Relationship With The Lord Is Strained:
 - Because Of Our Own Attitudes & Actions!
 - What Should Be A Delight – Walking With & Serving The Lord:
 - Feels More Like A Harsh Duty!
 - Like Jonah Felt!
 - Or We Just Want To Go Our Own Way:
 - And We Deliberately Disobey The Lord!
 - Like Jonah Did!
 - Or We Don’t Like What Is Happening To Us:
 - And We Are Displeased & Even Angry With God!
 - Like Jonah!
 - Or We Even Wallow In Our Guilt & Self-Pity:
 - And Experience Distress & Despair & Depression!
 - As Jonah Did!
 - ***We Are Jonah!***
2. But - I Believe God Wants For Us To Know That:
 - When You See Yourself In Jonah:
 - You Can Find Your True Self In The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Because **He** Is Gracious & Merciful, Slow To Anger & Of Great Kindness – To Us!
 - He Calls You!
 - He Delivers You!
 - He Works With You!
 - And He Upholds You!
 - So - When You See Yourself In Jonah:
 - And Things Are Missing In Your Life:
 - As They Were In His Life!
 - You Can Turn To & Trust In:

- The Lord!

- Because He Has All That You Need!

- And So Much More!

- Colossians 2:9-10 Tells Us This:

- "For in him [In The Lord Jesus Christ] dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. / And ye are complete in Him!"

3. So: When You See Yourself In Jonah:

- You Can Find Your True Self In Jesus!

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