

## E2E- Part 96

### Jonah

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1. If Jesus was determined to emphasize the story of Jonah which underscores the pinnacle of His purpose, we should give serious attention to it as well. (Matt 12:40)
2. In verse one we learn that God's compassion extends to others. Other prophets are sent to the people of God, but Jonah is being sent to enemy territory to warn people who are very far from God.
3. Jonah doesn't believe the people of Ninevah *deserve* the mercy of God. His fear is that the Assyrians *would* repent and be spared the catastrophe they deserve.
4. The plans of God are not thwarted by stubbornness. God sends storms our way to get our attention; the intention is to turn and restore.
5. The storm's intensity and the sailors' frantic actions stand in stark contrast to Jonah's deep sleep. The irony of a plea for prayer from the pagan captain could not have escaped Jonah.
6. Jonah's willingness to sacrifice himself to save the pagan crew suggests a change of heart but notice he does not suggest turning the ship around. He forces the crew to decide his fate.
7. Jonah also does not realize he's about to play the leading role in a drama which will be a cameo of Calvary.
8. Once the decision was made, and Jonah is thrown overboard, the wind and sea calm immediately proving to the crew that God was in control. They no longer feared the sea, but the Lord, and they were in awe of Him.
9. Consider the poor example Jonah set before the sailors, *and yet* God still worked through those circumstances to draw the sailors to Himself.

# TODAY'S WORSHIP

Glorious Day  
Goodness and Mercy (Psalm 23)  
I Can't Get Enough  
Who You Say I Am

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In verses 1-2, we learn that Jonah was called out by God and given a mission to carry out on His behalf.

- Does everyone have a mission from God, or are only certain people given a mission while everyone else is called simply to live faithfully?
- Read Matthew 28:19-20, 1 Peter 2:9, and 2 Timothy 1:9. In what way, if any, might these passages help us with these questions?
- Why do you think God would give people missions to carry out on His behalf instead of just doing it Himself?

Share a situation where you had clarity on what God wanted you to do, but you chose to go the other way.

- Why do you think you chose that path? What motivated you?

Mark listed three ways in which people avoid God's will for their lives: Hiding/Avoiding, Ignoring, and Willful Refusal.

- What are some examples of each of these?

Mark mentioned fear as a possible motive for Jonah's disengagement in his mission. In addition, a desire to maintain control, material attachments, relationships & social pressure, past wounds & distrust, and immediate gratification can influence us to not completely surrender ourselves to obedience to God's will for our lives.

- Which of these (or something else) do you tend to wrestle with most?
- What have you done that has helped you overcome any of these influences in your times of decision?

For someone who recognizes they've been willfully refusing God's direction...

- What would healthy steps toward surrender and obedience look like?
- How can this community provide support to them in this process?