



“A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO TARSHISH”

Series: “JONAH”, Part 1 of 4

Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Text: Jonah 1:1-17

Big Idea: God’s discipline is not to destroy us but to preserve and prepare us.

GOD’S CALL AND JONAH’S RESPONSE...

Jonah 1:1-2 {NASV}, “The word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh the great city, and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.”

Jonah 1:3a {NASV}, “But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.”

REASONS WHY JONAH DIDN’T WANT TO GO...

- 1. Nineveh was the center of a massive fertility cult.**
- 2. Nineveh was known for its child sacrifices.**
- 3. The Assyrians, who occupied Nineveh, were known for their cruel brutality, especially to prisoners of war.**

Jonah 1:3 {NASV}, “But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship, which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare, and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.”

HOW GOD DEALS WITH DISOBEDIENCE...

Jonah 1:4 {NASV}, “And the Lord hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up.”

Jonah 1:5 {NASV}, “Then the sailors became afraid, and every man cried to his god, and they threw the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down, and fallen sound asleep.”

Jonah 1:6-7 {NASV}, "So the captain approached him and said, "How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps your god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish." And each man said to his mate, "Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity has struck us." So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah."

Jonah 1:8-9 {NASV}, "Then they said to him, "Tell us, now! On whose account has this calamity struck us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you? And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land."

Jonah 1:10 {NASV}, "Then the men became extremely frightened and they said to him, "How could you do this?" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them."

Jonah 1:11-12 {NASV}, "So they said to him, "What should we do to you that the sea may become calm for us?"---for the sea was becoming increasingly stormy. And he said to them, 'Pick me up and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will become calm for you, for I know that on account of me this great storm has come upon you.'"

Jonah 1:13 {NASV}, "However, the men rowed desperately to return to land but they could not, for the sea was becoming even stormier against them."

Jonah 1:14-15 {NASV}, "Then they called on the Lord and said, "We earnestly pray, O Lord, do not let us perish on account of this man's life and do not put innocent blood on us; for Thou, O Lord, hast done as Thou hast pleased." So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging."

Jonah 1:16 {NASV}, "Then the men feared the Lord greatly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows."

Jonah 1:17 {NASV}, "And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights."

TWO POWERFUL LESSONS FOR LIFE...

1. Even rebellious believers may experience favorable circumstances for a while.
2. God's discipline is not to destroy us, but to preserve and prepare us.

Hebrews 12:6a, 9-10, "Because the Lord disciplines those he loves. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness."