



**Lesson:** 2

**Text:** Jonah 1:1-3

**Series:** November 28, 2021

**Date:** November 28, 2021

**Title:** Jonah Takes the Plunge

### **Jonah's Commission**

Jonah 1:1-3 The word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me."

**"The word of the Lord came to"**

**"great city" - 3:2; 3:3; 4:11**

**Why was Nineveh so great?**

**Three commands**

**1. "Arise"**

**2. "go"**

**3. "cry against it"**

**"wickedness"**

**"come up"**

**"cry against it"**

**Does Jonah deserve a little sympathy?**

3. Beware of misinterpreting \_\_\_\_\_  
as God's will.

Be careful in allowing circumstances to be your  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### Discussion Guide

1. We have learned that one of the lessons of Jonah is the tension between divine justice and mercy. Do you tend to be a justice person or a mercy person and why?
2. The narrative pursues Jonah in his fall. What lesson(s) do we learn from Jonah and what do we learn about God's commitment to His erring children?
3. How does Jonah typify the fallen human condition?
4. In what ways do believers try to flee God's presence?
5. What might be some examples where we are self-deceived in interpreting circumstances as God's will?

**ANSWERS:** downward, returning, circumstances, guide

3 But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.

### "Tarshish"

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.

### "from the presence of the Lord"

Psalms 16:11 You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever..

Psalms 139:7-10 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me

### Why did Jonah flee?

Jonah 4:2 He prayed to the Lord and said, "Please Lord, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity."

**Jonah follows a similar pattern in his resistance.**

### Implications

**1. When we choose to defy God, we might be putting ourselves on a \_\_\_\_\_ path of suffering and despair.**

Jonah's initial step of saying no to God set him on a downward path of suffering.

Jonah 1:3 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

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**DOWN** into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.

5 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 1:15 So they picked up Jonah, threw him **INTO THE SEA**, and the sea stopped its raging.

Jonah 2:3 "For You had cast me into the **DEEP**, into the **HEART** of the seas, And the current engulfed me. All Your breakers and billows passed over me.

Jonah 2:6 "**DESCENDED** to the **ROOTS OF THE MOUNTAINS**. The earth with its bars was around me forever, But You have brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God.

**2. It can be slow and difficult \_\_\_\_\_ to God's will.**

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