

**“You want me  
to do what?”**

**Jonah’s Call**

# You want me to do what?

- **Jonah forsakes his mission: (Chapters 1-2)**
  - A. **Jonah flees from the LORD (Chapter 1)**
  - B. **Jonah's Prayer (Chapter 2)**
- **Jonah fulfills his mission (Chapters 3-4)**
  - A. **Jonah goes to Nineveh (Chapter 3)**
  - B. **Jonah's Anger at the Lord (Chapter 4)**

# **Jonah flees from the LORD (Chapter 1)**

**Jonah 1:3** **1** The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: **2** “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

**3** 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 went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

# Jonah's Prayer (Chapter 2)

**Jonah 2:1-9** **1** From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. **2** He said: "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry. **3** You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me.

# Jonah's Prayer (Chapter 2)

**4** *I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.'* **5** *The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head.* **6** *To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit.*

# Jonah's Prayer (Chapter 2)

**7** *“When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. **8** Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them. **9** But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the LORD.’”*

# Jonah goes to Nineveh (Chapter 3)

**Jonah 3: 1-10** **1** Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: **2** “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.” **3** Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. **4** Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”

# Jonah goes to Nineveh (Chapter 3)

**5** The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

**6** When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. **7** This

is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

**"By the decree of the king and his nobles:**

# Jonah goes to Nineveh (Chapter 3)

*Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. 8 But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. 9 Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.” 10 When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.*

# Jonah's Anger at the LORD's Compassion (Chapter 4)

**Jonah 4:1-11** **1** But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. **2** He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. **3** Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live." **4** But the LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

# Jonah's Anger at the LORD's Compassion (Chapter 4)

**9** But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead." **10** But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. **11** And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"

# Three Certainties from Jonah

- The certainty of God's love and mercy
- The certainty of God's patience with sinners
- The certainty of God's sovereignty

# God's Love and Mercy

**Exodus 33:19** *And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."*

**Hosea 6:6** *For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.*

# God's Love and Mercy

**John 3:16** *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

# God's Patience

- Abraham
- Moses
- David
- Peter
- Paul
- You and Me

# God's Patience

**2 Peter 3:9** *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.*

# **God's Sovereignty**

**God will accomplish His purposes,  
in His time, with even the most  
reluctant and unwilling servants.**

**When you get a call to ministry  
from God, He's going to get you!**

# God's Sovereignty

- Abraham: Liar
- Moses: Doubter
- David: Adulterer
- Peter: Betrayer
- Paul: Murderer
- You and Me: ??????

# God's Sovereignty

## Oswald Chambers

**“If you seek great things for yourself thinking “God has called me to do this or that,” you barricade God from using you.**

**As long as you maintain your own personal interests and ambitions, you cannot be completely aligned or identified with God's interest...Your understanding of your ways must also be surrendered, because they are now the ways of the Lord.”**

# **The Question Today**

**God has called you and me to a “You want me to do what?” moment.**

**Are we going to answer like Jonah or will we follow God and His will?**