


JONAH



FROM RUNNING
TO REVIVAL

Lesson 1

“Confronting our Fear”

What do you fear most of all?

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

- It does not just say “fear” but “the spirit of fear”
- Spirit = a presence of fear
 - A mindset of fear

Jonah....why did he run?

Would you do the same?

Jonah 1:1 Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

- Jonah was a man of God – a prophet...messenger of the Lord
- He loved God...served God...trusted God

God was calling him to go to the enemy

- Nineveh – The greatest of their enemies
- They were known for their brutality

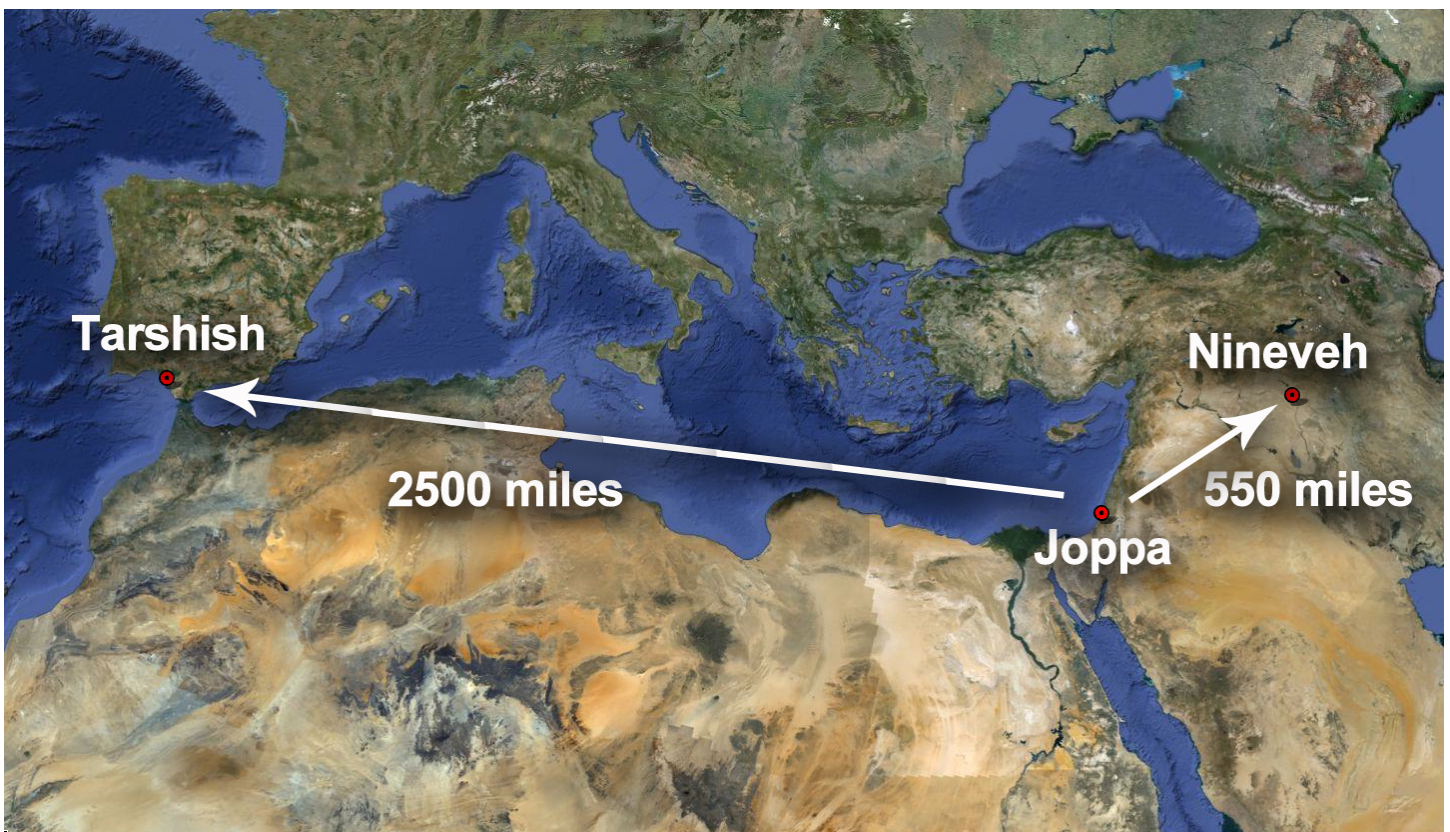
“...that great city.”

- It was estimated to be 11 miles wide and 18 miles deep
- It was said to have 1500 towers
- Describes the people of the city having over 600,000

Jonah 1:1 Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

God called Jonah to do something great!

Jonah 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 rose up” = Jonah got up and fled!

Why? Because he is like us

Jonah was afraid

- He was afraid to face them
- He was afraid that God would forgive them
- He was afraid to help the enemy

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Notice what fear does....

Fear Turns Us in the wrong direction

- When we are afraid...we run
- When we don't understand something...We run

FACT: Fear messes with our minds

- We struggle with letting our minds run wild....

Question: Are you running?

- Not physically – simply not doing what God has impressed you to do!

Jonah 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.

- Down...down...down....

Fear takes us down the wrong path

- Vs 3 “Found a ship” – this is an escape

Question: What is the escape in your life?

God does things to get our attention

- Why? Because He loves us!

Jonah 1:4 But **the LORD sent** out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

Jonah 1:5 Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto **his god**, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

The one that had the answers was sleeping

Jonah 1:6 So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.

How do you call on your God when you are running from God?

Jonah 1:7 And they said everyone to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

- They wanted answers
- They wanted peace!

Jonah 1:8 Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou? 9 And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.

Jonah 1:10 Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

It is sad when our lives don't match our testimony

Jonah 1:11 Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous. 12 And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

Jonah 1:13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; **but they could not**: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them.

- This was GOD!
- You cannot fight against God

Jonah 1:14 Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee.

Fear traps us

Jonah 1:15 So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging. 16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows.

Why? They saw the hand of God

- They experienced His power

Jonah 1:17 Now 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.

Remember:

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

- But of power!

- And of Love!
- And of a sound mind!

Discussion & Prayer Time

In your group:

Discuss:

- 1. Do you struggle with fear in your life?**
- 2. Do you struggle with running from God when He calls you to do something uncomfortable?**
- 3. What can you learn and apply from the story of Jonah so far?**

Pray:

- 1.** _____
- 2.** _____
- 3.** _____
- 4.** _____
- 5.** _____
- 6.** _____
- 7.** _____
- 8.** _____