

INTRO TO JONAH

Jonah 1-4



SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, Pastor Peter gave an intro to the book of Jonah. One of the themes is the revelation of God's heart for those that we would deem wicked (even the pagan vicious people like the Assyrians). Not only that, but it also reveals how far our heart can be from God's heart. It reveals our own biases and prejudices against people that God has called us to be compassionate towards.

The Assyrians were a wicked and ruthless people, and would use very inhumane methods in their domination of enemy territories. Yet God was calling Jonah to preach repentance to them. Jonah chooses to run away in the complete opposite direction.

Even though we may not see ourselves as running away, one way we could be 'running away' is by being passive and inactive to the mission of God. We can easily drift into callousness if we continue to run away from God's assignment.

As we consider the prophetic message of Jonah, let's align our passions with God's compassion for the nations. The words of the prophets were not just words to muse upon, but for there to be blessing in obedience and consequences for disobedience. Jonah concludes with an inconclusive and provocative ending that presents us with the question: Are we in the same place as Jonah?



OUTLINE

1 REVELATION OF GOD'S HEART

The book of Jonah reveals to us God's heart for people that we consider wicked and vicious. It also reveals to us just how biased and prejudiced we can become, departing from the heart of God.

2 'RUNNING AWAY' FROM GOD'S ASSIGNMENT

We may not physically 'run away' from God's assignment - but there are many ways we run away from what He is calling us to. Perhaps it is laziness or passivity. Perhaps it is bias and judgment. We too need to examine our hearts and what God is assigning us in this season,.

3 THE ROLE OF PROPHETIC WORDS

The role of prophetic words was to provoke and elicit a response. It is not just meant for lacksidical musing, but rather, there was blessing in obedience and consequences for disobedience. Let's be careful to heed every word from God.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Do you recall a time when it was hard to have compassion for others?

2

What is an "assignment" that you feel like God is calling you to? Have you been faithful to that assignment?

3

What are some things that are causing us to be reluctant in showing compassion towards others, especially those who we think don't deserve it?

4

What are some biases and prejudices we might be aware of that God is confronting?

5

God disrupted Jonah's life by telling him to go to Nineveh. Are we willing to let God disrupt our lives and obey his calling?



BIG IDEA

Just like Jonah, we have also been given assignments from God. He has shown us how much compassion he wants to show people that we might be biased and prejudiced against. The question is - will we be obedient or disobedient to those assignments. Through the book of Jonah, our prayer is that we would become more aligned to and aware of the mission of God - aligning our passions with God's compassion for the nations.