

**May 20, 2018**

La Jolla Christian Fellowship

**UBERWHALE: Episode 1**

**Jonah Flees From The Lord**

**Jonah 1**

Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

*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. 4 Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. 5 All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. 6 The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.” 7 Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?” 9 He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” 10 This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.) 11 The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?” 12 “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.” 13 Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. 14 Then they cried out to the LORD, “Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, LORD, have done as you pleased.” 15 Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. 16 At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him. 17 Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.*

**In the story of Jonah we find the story of Jesus, but Jonah is not Jesus.**

### **Major themes in the story of Jonah**

1. **Revival:** God leverages tribulation for the revival of an entire city.
2. **Repentance:** God responds to humility and repentance.
3. **Obedience:** God blesses obedience.
4. **Compassion: Jonah 3:9** Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from His fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

**Nineveh: Who were the Ninevites? Genesis 10:8,9a,11-12** Cush was the father of Nimrod, who became a mighty warrior on the earth. <sup>9a</sup>He was a mighty hunter before the LORD <sup>11</sup>From that land he went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah <sup>12</sup>and Resen, which is between Nineveh and Calah—which is the great city.

**A great city and a wicked city Jonah 1:2** “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

- Why does God destroy cities?
  - God’s justice must eradicate evil.
    - **Leviticus 18:24-25** Do not **defile yourselves** in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. <sup>25</sup>Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.

**Jonah flees from the Lord: Vs. 3** But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish.

- **Jonah ran from the Lord because he hated the Ninevites.**
- **Jonah had a death wish.**
  - **Vs. 12** “Pick me up and throw me into the sea.”
  - **Jonah 4:3** “Just kill me now, LORD! I’d rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen.”

**God loves you enough to send a whale into your life: Vs. 17** Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

- Crisis changes the trajectory of our life.
- Crisis is often grace.
  - Let’s not blame God for Jonah’s crisis. Jonah chose to be in the sea.

**Food for the journey:** Use these questions and challenges to go deeper in one of our community groups or in personal reflection.

1. God seems to leverage crisis to change the trajectory of our lives. Has a personal crisis ever worked out in your favor? Meaning, did the crisis benefit you in the long run?
2. Jonah was petulant, unforgiving and self-destructive. Why do you think God would send this kind of messenger to a city that he wanted to save and how can we sometimes be like Jonah?
3. God wants to save cities through revival. How are you or can you be part of his plan to do that in the city that you live?
4. Jonah decided to get into the sea. How often do our decisions throw us into the sea, and how often do we tend to blame God for our circumstances?
5. This week sit before God and ask him to reveal to you where you have sin, un-forgiveness or repentance in your heart.