

A HEART LIKE HIS

Part 2.0 The Effects of Fleeing Jonah 1:3-17

Jonah's fleeing affects his own life; a DOWNWARD spiral

- From Jerusalem down to JOPPA vs 3
- From Joppa down to the ship's HARBOR
- From the harbor down into the BOAT
- From top deck down into the HOLD vs. 5
- From the hold to LAYING down, asleep Psalm 139:7-10
- From the ship into the WATER vs. 15
- From the surface down UNDERWATER 2:3
- From underwater down to the DEEP 2:5
- From the deep to the MOUNTAIN BASE 2:6
- While FAINTING away... I remembered and PRAYED 2:7

Jonah's fleeing affected PEOPLE around him;
a DANGEROUS example

- Jonah's DISREGARD for the sailor's lives and livelihood
 - Sailors are now FIGHTING God –
HURLING against each other (vs. 4,5,13,15)
 - Loss of cargo, possible INCOME & reputation
 - EMOTIONAL crisis; FEAR of death
- God's REGARD for the sailors
 - They CALLED upon their gods vs. 5
 - They CALLED upon the LORD vs. 16
 - They FEARED the LORD; SACRIFICES and VOWS
- COMPARE the two hearts: Jonah's and God's

Conclusion: Sticking with God's tough mission assignment while experiencing God's PRESENCE is a less difficult life than fleeing in DISOBEDIENCE.

Auburn Grace Community Church – January 12, 2020

Life Group Discussion Questions – January 12, 2020

Genesis 3:8 *They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.*

QUICK REVIEW

1. Describe a time when you knew God wanted you to do something and you did not do it. How did this impact your relationship with Him? How and when was your relationship restored? Does your relationship now look any different as a result? Why do you think that is?
2. God has called us to "love our neighbor," including the one(s) that are very difficult to love. When we don't love the unlovely are we saying "No!" to God? Are we saying we don't want God's mercy to fall on them? How can we overcome this resistance to love the unlovely?

MY STORY

1. Did you ever run away from home as a child? What happened? Besides avoidance, in what other ways can we "run away" from dealing with our difficult life circumstances?
2. It is fair to say that the degree of our stubbornness will be equal to the difficulty in God getting our attention. The further away we flee, the more difficult our restoration process gets. Have you experienced this? At what point did you finally figure out that you can't "outrun" God?

GOING DEEP

1. Ephesians 4:32 says, "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven [you]." How might remembering the forgiveness of Jesus help us forgive others? How can we lean on God to help us to be merciful and forgive those we "can't"? Is there someone in your life that you know you must show mercy to? How can your group help you take steps to do that?
2. Read Proverbs 3:11-12. Why is it that many people view difficulties in their lives as a way of God paying them back? How might those hardships actually be a way of God not paying them back but bringing them back?
3. Re-read Jonah 1:4-5. What is significant about the severity of the storm? What purposes did it accomplish? How have extremely difficult trials in your life and how you handled them affected others around you?
4. In v. 9, Jonah says to the sailors, "*I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land.*" Why was it strange that Jonah claimed to worship and fear God yet his actions were in opposition to that? Why is this the condition of our hearts as well?

PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?
2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for you to remember?