



Sermon Title: "Running from God"

Scripture: Jonah 1

Pastor Chris Fritz

Sunday, October 2, 2022

I. NATURAL BORN RUNNERS

Jonah 1:1 -

1) This abrupt beginning reminds us of at least TWO important truths:

#1 - This book exists NOT to satisfy our curiosities about Jonah BUT to teach us about God.

#2 - This book is A PART OF God's big, grand, glorious story of redemption!

2 Kings 14:23-25 -

Note: Jonah was "the son of Amittai" (meaning "faithfulness"), and he was a country boy from Gath-hepher (from western Galilee).

John 7:52; 2 Kings 14:26-27 -

Jonah 1:1-3a

2) The people of Nineveh (the Assyrians) were hated enemies! Jonah wanted nothing to do with them and nothing to do with speaking God's word to them, because, in Jonah's mind, nothing good could come from it!

Note: Jonah did not have God's heart for the Gentiles, for those who don't yet know God.

Genesis 12:3; Psalm 86:9-10 -

Jonah 1:3 -

3) Jonah is *trying* TO RUN from God. Two times this verse emphasizes that Jonah is trying to escape "*the presence of the LORD*" AND two times this verse states that Jonah "*went down*". That phrase "*went down*" is a Hebrew euphemism for death.

Psalm 139:7-12 -

Note: You cannot escape the presence of God, nor should you want to! God Himself is the source of all life, of everything that is good, right, and beautiful.

Jonah 1:4-6 -

4) In rescuing, disciplining grace, God pursues “runners” like us! God will indeed “*give a thought to us, that we may not perish.*”

Hebrews 12:11 -

Jonah 1:7-10 -

5) Jonah needed discipline (he needed correction!) because there was a horrible discrepancy between **WHAT he claimed to believe about God and **HOW** he actually lived. **AND WE NEED this same kind of discipline and correction!****

James 1:22; Galatians 6:1; Matthew 18:15-17 -

Jonah 1:11-17 -

6) Jonah’s rebellion (his running!) could not, in the slightest way, overrule God’s grace and God’s plan! In amazing wisdom and grace, God used Jonah’s ugly sin to do something beautiful, to reveal Himself to these sailors. These sailors respond by calling out to God, by fearing God, by offering a sacrifice to God, and by making vows to God.

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. Why does the book of Jonah exist? Who/What is it primarily about?
2. Why would Jonah refuse to go to Nineveh? Who were the people? What was the message?
3. What was Jonah attempting to do in fleeing to Tarshish? Was he successful?
4. How do people run from God today? How have you been tempted to run from God?
5. What parts of chapter 1 highlight God’s grace? Where is God’s grace seen?