

**Title:** "A Whale of a Journey"

**Text:** Jonah 1-4

**Target:** Jonah is considered by many as fable, but because we believe it's factual (Luke 11:30; Matthew 12:39-40) we are able to discover God's faithfulness.

1. **A Call to Go:** "Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go..." (Jonah 1:1-2)
  - a. **To a Place:** "to Nineveh" (1:2) \*Capital of Assyria \*Mosul, Iraq
  - b. **To a People:** "for their evil has come up before me" (1:2)
  - c. **To a be a Preacher:** "call out against it" (1:2)
  
2. **A Place to Run:** "But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish" (1:3)
  - a. **Far from the Place:** "He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish" (1:3) \*Tel Aviv
  - b. **Far from the People:** "So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish" (1:3) \*Southern Spain
  - c. **Far from His Presence:** "away from the presence of the LORD" (1:3)
  
3. **A Storm that Blows:** "But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea," (1:4)
  - a. **Causing Fear:** "Then the mariners were afraid" (1:5)
  - b. **Creating Faith:** "each cried out to his god" (1:5)
  
4. **A Crew that Knows:**
  - a. **Roll of the Dice:** "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." (1:7)
  - b. **Revelation of Defiance:** "For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them." (1:10)
  
5. **A Fish to Catch:** "And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah" (1:17)
  - a. **Prayer of Distress:** "I called out to the LORD, out of my distress" (2:2)
  - b. **Purpose to Deliver:** "And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land." (2:10)
  
6. **A City that Repents:** "And the people of Nineveh believed God." (3:5)
  - a. **A Second Chance:** "Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time" (3:1)
  - b. **A Sermon that's Concise:** "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" (3:4)
  - c. **A Scene of Compassion:** "God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it." (3:10)

**7. A Preacher that Quits:**

- a. **His Complaint:** *“But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry”* (4:1)
  - b. **God’s Comfort:** *“God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort”* (4:6)
  - c. **His Criticism:** *“Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die”* (4:9)
8. **A God who Cares:** *“And should not I pity Nineveh,...more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle”* (4:11)
- a. **God’s Plan**
  - b. **God’s Pursuit**
  - c. **God’s Patience**
  - d. **God’s Provision**
  - e. **God’s Pleasure**

**Take Away:** Everything detail in the story of Jonah is obedient to God except for Jonah. However, He is a God of second chances that turns what we think are mistakes into miracles.