

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

SERMON OUTLINE

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“THE PREACHER ON THE RUN - Understanding The Book of Jonah”

Jonah 1:1-3

What is the Book of Jonah about? Well, it's not simply about a **great fish** (mentioned **only four times**), or a **great city** (named **nine times**), or even a **disobedient prophet** (mentioned **eighteen times**). **It's about God! God is mentioned *thirty-eight times* in these four short chapters**, and if you eliminated Him from the book, the story wouldn't make sense. The Book of Jonah is about the will of God and how we respond to it.

The Lord Jesus believed that Jonah was an actual person and that his experience in the belly of the great fish was authentic (*Matthew 12:40*). Jonah was called by God to preach the word. What should have been a ***blessing and privilege*** turned out to be a burden and a pain.

This text reveals some truths about a prophet on the run.

I. THE DIVINE DIRECTIVE TO THE PROPHET Vs.1-2

1. The Coming of God's Word to the Prophet V-1

Jonah's name means **Dove or peace**, but we learn early on in this book that Jonah did not want the peace of God to come to the people of Nineveh.

2. The Commandment of the God's Word to the Prophet V-2

God's command to Jonah was clear and concise. God commanded the prophet to arise and go.

God told him to go to Nineveh – we learn two things:

- (1)– Nineveh was a Great City in Size
- (2)- Nineveh Was a Great City in Sin

II. THE DISOBEDIENT DIRECTION OF THE PROPHET V-3

1. **Seen in His Fleeing V-3a** We are in our most vulnerable state when we are walking away from God. God called Jonah to go Northeast to Nineveh; Jonah went Southwest to Joppa.

2. Seen in His Finding V-3b

Satan and the demons of hell are at work against the church to hinder us from doing the will of God. Everything now that Jonah does is “**DOWNWARD.**”

There's three strong lessons learned about the disobedient direction of the prophet. First it is seen in his **fleeing**; secondly, it is seen in his **finding**; and lastly we see:

3. Seen in His Financing. V. 3c

Disobedience to God is costly in more than one way. Jonah's disobedience cost him spiritually, physically, and financially. Jonah's disobedience was **extensive**, he fled to Tarshish; Jonah's disobedience was **expensive**, he paid the fare.

When we are out of the will of God, we too will pay financially, physically, and spiritually. Are we on the run from God as a church? Are we obeying His command to share the gospel? If you are not saved the Lord is calling for you to trust in Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior! For His saints He is calling for you to serve!