

## The Greatest Pursuit

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Jonah 1:1-2 The word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying, 2 “Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.”

Jonah 1:3 But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.

Jonah 1:4-17

### 1. Why did Jonah run?

- **He had a wrong opinion of humanity.**

- People are worth saving.
- Jonah 4:2 Please Lord, was not this what I said while I was still in my *own* country?

- **He didn't fully understand God's nature.**

Jonah 4:2 Please Lord, was not this what I said while I was still in my *own* country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.

- Deuteronomy 4:31 “For the Lord your God is a merciful God.”
- Psalm 145:9 The Lord is good to all, and His mercies are over all His works.
- Ephesians 2:4-5 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).

- **He had a distorted view of God's will.**

- He thought God's will was difficult and damaging.
- God's mercy doesn't always look like mercy at first.

- **He didn't embrace his calling.**

- Jonah 1:8-10 Then they said to him, “Tell us, now! On whose account *has* this calamity *struck* us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?” 9 He said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land.” 10 Then the men became extremely frightened and they said to him, “How could you do this?” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

## 2. What do we learn about Ourselves and God?

- **God is pursuing us.**

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- **God commissions us to join the pursuit.**

- Just like Jonah, we have a missionary call.

Acts 1:8 “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”