

The Great Pursuit

Jonah...

- Reluctant Prophet, Rebellious Prophet, Repentant Prophet, Relapsed Prophet

Jonah 4:1 But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry.

Jonah 3:10 When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do *it*.

1. Focus on others instead of yourself.

Jonah 4:1-2 But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry. 2 He prayed to the Lord and said, "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..."

- **How will you defeat personal selfishness in 2025?**
- What will you do to put others before yourself?

2. Love the things God loves.

- In the Jonah story, the things God loves aren't really things but people.
- Colossians 3:1-3 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Jonah 4:10-11 Then the Lord said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and *which* you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight. 11 "Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know *the difference* between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?"

- The love of self is always a barrier to true generosity and compassion.
- **What will seeking the things above look like for you in 2025?**
- **How will you make loving people your priority in the coming year?**

3. Champion God's redemptive plan for the world.

Jonah 4:2-4 He prayed to the Lord and said, "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. 3 "Therefore

now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life." 4 The Lord said, "Do you have good reason to be angry?"

- Do we love God enough that we want His plan more than our own?
- Jonah 4:4 The Lord said, "Do you have good reason to be angry?"

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

How will you champion God's redemptive plan in the world in 2025?