

JONAH 1:3 “GOD COMMISSIONS THE RESISTANT TO REVEAL HIS COMPASSION”

STEALING CANDYBARS – Stubbornness isn't always a good quality

- **For Jonah it was bad – for GOD IT IS GOOD**

Story is NOT the prophet, ship, fish, city, king, plant – STUBBORN LOVE OF GOD

God commissions the resistant - God coordinates the despondent - God empowers the reluctant - God's Stubborn Love is Triumphant

The point of Jonah is God's love and what lengths He goes to, to reach the lost.

ANYTHING MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN STUBBORN LOVE OF GOD (RELENTLESS)?

ANYTHING UGLIER THAN STUBBORN UNLOVING HEART OF MAN? **ON DISPLAY**

JONAH DIDN'T WANT THESE LOST REACHED...Picked another country?

- Wickedness Risen (needed addressing)– Jonah Wanted Judgment

Q: Well enough acquainted with God to know COMPASSION WAS THE PLAN...

Festering hatred towards the ninevites pushed Jonah to disobedience.

- **NO PLACE IN HIS HEART – LIMIT TO HIS COMPASSION**

BLINDED

FOOLISH: “FLED FROM GOD'S PRESENCE” – A PLACE (Temple) – leave location

- God isn't confined to a location

Psalm 139:7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

- o **To Tarshish** (on the run from God – opposite direction calling)

Nineveh is 550 miles to the east – Tarshish 2500 miles to the west (Spain)

THINKING Better to run from God, better to run from my people and my home, better to be at risk, better to die – **I'D RATHER DIE THAN SEE GOD TOUCH NINEVEH**

Blindness caused by bitterness will cause you to believe that you know better than God

- o **JUSTIFIED:** The Ninevites were the worst.

Take leading men while holding them down reach in and pull their tongue out at the roots Skin humans alive They would take the skin and cover the walls of the cities they conquered - ISIS

HUMAN NATURE REBELS AGAINST MERCY TO THAT *abuse/victim/opp....

ONLY GOD AND HIS GOSPEL – REALITY OF SIN (not saying all sins are equal – all sin does disqualify us from earning heaven on our own) **SUPREMACY GOD'S LUV**

HATRED WAS TAKING HIM DOWN

DEVIL MADE IT EASY TO RUN – ALL THESE DOORS SEEM TO BE OPENING

- **The devil can open doors too – foster frustration/feed your hatred**

Q: **The devil will be more than willing to help you disobey God.**

Down to Joppa, bottom of ship, depths of the sea, belly of fish

- o He paid the fare – **HATE WILL MAKE YOU PAY –**
- o **Never justified for the child of GOD**

Matthew 5:43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you,

and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.

GOD'S LOVE WINS

Watching from water – Knew What was Coming– PORTEND THINGS TO COME

- **Already idolatrous sailors are turning to God and HIS MERCY – SCORE 1**

WITH GOD IT'S ENDLESS COMPASSION – no matter who u think is undeserving.

The only thing more stubborn than the heart of man is the stubborn love of God.

- **THIS IS WHAT SUSTAINS YOU /KEEPS YOU ON PURPOSE**

o **Betsie suffering in concentration camp**

I: There is no pit so deep where God's love is not deeper. (Betsie TBoom Con Camp)

There is no heart so dark that God's love can't enlighten it.

EVERYTHING RIGHT NOW US AND THEM – ALL THERE REALLY IS – ARE PEOPLE WHO NEED GOD'S COMPASSION