

July 10/11, 2010
Wrestling With God: Jonah 1

Are You Listening?

Who is Jonah?

- a) Prophet
- b) Fisherman
- c) Sailor

When and where did he live?

- a) 760 B.C. in Northern Israel
- b) 1492 in Spain
- c) 1776 in Philadelphia

Who was he told by God to go to?

- a) Ninevites
- b) Lyndenites
- c) Eversonians

Where did Jonah go instead?

- a) Damascus
- b) Tarshish
- c) Kendall

What was he supposed to tell them to do?

- a) Repent
- b) Eat more ice cream
- c) Obey their parents

What happened to Jonah?

- a) Swallowed by a fish
- b) Tempted by a snake
- c) Captured by a teradactyl

Big Fish Observations:

1) Like Jonah, all of us can be strong willed, stubborn and rebellious! We can know what God wants us to do, but instead do what we want to do, regardless of who it affects.

2) Like Jonah, all of us have our reasons for our stubborn disobedience. Jonah refused to obey God because he hated the cruel Ninevites and knew God would spare them if they responded to His message of repentance. *Jonah 4:2*

3) Like Jonah, our rebellion and running from God's will can create great pain and problems not only for us but also for innocent people. We hurt ourselves and others when we rebel.

4) Unlike Jonah, God is merciful to everyone and intervenes even in our rebellion to save people put at risk through our disobedience. God loves to save both guilty and innocent people.

5) Like Jonah, we can resign and run from our responsibility to serve God, but God has limitless ways to redirect us back to Himself and His will. You can't out run or out wrestle God!

Moral of Story: When God Speaks.....Don't Do a Jonah!

Discussion Questions:

- 1.** Are you strong willed? What issues do you wrestle with God about? Who is it hard for you to love?
- 2.** Can you relate to Jonah? In what ways have you learned the hard way that it is best to obey God? How has God "pinned you" into obedience?