

## INTRODUCTION

Jonah, The Fugitive. Not running from the law but from the Lord; from his call to uphold the covenant of Moses and speak as a prophet, God's mouth piece. His flight resulted in jeopardising his life and the life of those who he unwittingly involved in aiding him. Why, 'all because the lady loves milk tray' (JOKE - Google it), all because God was so good, in fact too good in Jonah's eyes, to send him to the Ninevites, who he hated. It is said that the book of Jonah is an overview of the Gospel, although that might become apparent by the end of the book let's see what relevance it has to us today.

## READ CHAPTER JONAH 1:1-16

### 1. The Word and the Call...

1:1+2 The word of the Lord came to Jonah and he was called to go and preach to Nineveh.

- a) In what way do you see that these verses relate (or apply) to you?
- b) Look at Rom 8:29-30 and Eph 4:1, how do these verses help clarify your relationship to 'calling'?
- c) Has the Word of the Lord come to you?
- d) In what way might your relationship to the Word be different to that which came to Jonah?

### 2. The storms of life...

- a) What was the source of Jonah's storm. Why did he experience it?
- b) Look at Job 1:12 & 18-19 why did Job encounter this storm and where did it come from?
- c) The whole of Acts 27 gives the account of a troublesome, storm ridden journey that the apostle Paul took. Look at vs 7-26 for a summary snapshot.  
What was the cause of this storm v14? Did it serve any purpose (v23&24)?
- d) What does this suggest to us about the storms we may go through in life?

### 3. God is too good...

In this chapter in what way did God show goodness -

- a) to the Ninevites (1:1+2)
- b) to Jonah (v4 & v6)...
- c) To the sailors (v14-16)
- d) to YOU...

## CONCLUSION

Like Jonah, having received the Word we share in the Call of the Gospel. That call is to be expressed through our life lived, message shared, prayers prayed, time, treasure and talent shared; ultimately through our submission to Christ. Let's first of all thank God for his kindness toward us in that Jesus would obey to the letter, and to death, in order to make us his own and then pray for willing hearts in order to likewise honour and glorify our Father.

## PRAYER

For forgiveness for those ways in which we are disobedient and run from God.  
Thanksgiving to Jesus who took the wrath of the Father that we might not.  
For each other to be faithfully submitted to Christ's Lordship.  
That we would be sensitive to God's rebuke, even if it comes through unbelievers.