



**Series: The Minor Prophets**

**Lesson: 23. Jonah, pt. 1 – God Uses  
EVERYTHING**

**Passage: Jonah 1:1–16**

- **Background**

- Jonah: Prophet during reign of Jeroboam II (cf. 2 Kings 14:23–27)
- Date: ~800–750 BC
- The Text:
  - Theme – God’s compassion toward ALL of mankind and Israel’s responsibility to share that
  - Parallel structure between halves of the book
  - Highly dramatic, full of irony and satire
  - Historically reliable

***Matt. 12:38–42 – Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.”<sup>39</sup>But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but **the sign of Jonah the prophet**;<sup>40</sup>for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.<sup>41</sup>The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.<sup>42</sup>The Queen of the South will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came***

*from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. (also see Luke 11:29–32)*

- **God's Call & Jonah's Response (1–3)**

- A challenging call
  - Ninevah was about 500 miles away—with no direct routes
  - It's 'wickedness' was legendary
  - Assyria was prophesied right around this time to be the eventual destroyers of Northern Israel (Hos. 10:6; 11:5)
- Jonah was actively working \_\_\_\_\_ God's purpose.
  - Is Jonah saved???
- Can we really flee from God's presence?

- **How Did That Work Out? (4–9)**

- A very negative ' \_\_\_\_\_ ' moment!
- Does the 'ecumenical response' help?
- What is ironic about Jonah sleeping then? What is symbolic about it?

- A game of lots becomes a God-ordained opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_
- Jonah FINALLY recognizes God's response to his disobedience
  - YHWH is credited with the storm, as opposed to other gods.
  - Shows that He is sovereign *everywhere*.

- **How God Used It (10–16)**

- The sailors first recognize YHWH as *a* god, but not yet as *the* God.
- Jonah's guilty conscience finally takes over.
- Irony: The pagan sailors are showing more \_\_\_\_\_ than Jonah (the prophet of YHWH!).
- God used Jonah's \_\_\_\_\_ to save the sailors.
  - Would they have recognized the one true God without this interaction with one of His prophets?
  - Would they have prayed to Him if He had not ignored their attempts to please Him with works?
  - Would they have turned to Him without first being saved from danger?
- But we're still left with Jonah stuck in the middle of the sea...

## What Do We Do with This Text?

1. Choose the \_\_\_\_\_ way.

2. Look for God's \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives.

**Blanks:** against, But God, witness, compassion, disobedience, easy, sovereignty