

ON THE RUN

Jonah 1

(This is the 1st in a series of messages on Jonah)

Frequently when studying Scripture the number of times something or someone is mentioned in a passage gives us a clue as to what that book is about. So with the book of Jonah in mind it is interesting to note...

...the great fish (which dominates so many people's perception of the book) is mentioned only 4 times;

...then Jonah is mentioned 18 times by name;

...but God is mentioned 38 times in just 48 total verses. **GOD IS THE MAIN CHARACTER!**

This is most obvious by what Jonah does and what God does. Whenever Jonah is doing something *in a human fashion* then God is doing something else but *in a sovereign fashion*.

In 1:4 when **Jonah** is *asleep* **God** awakens a great storm;

In 1:17 when **Jonah** is *tossed overboard* and *swallowed up* by the waves of the sea, **God** will have him *swallowed up* by a sea creature and have him *tossed up* on the shore.

Finally when **Jonah** attempts to remove God from the pages of his own life, **God** will add many to His own book of life.

All of this was to show that God is sovereign in grace and sovereign in governance. And that is how you will benefit the most from Jonah. Whether or not a grown person can live successfully inside of a big fish is an interesting debate but whether or not a grown person will find his highest satisfaction in the Lord is not open for a debate – not if you understand what Jonah is saying!

Idea: God will run faster and harder after us in His “slowest” moments than we can run from Him in our fastest ones. So why do we run from God?

We Fear What _____ Might Do To Us (1:1-7)

- A. _____ often times places us on a _____ course with the (vv 1-2)
- B. The fear of _____ will exacerbate _____ behavior (v 3)
- C. _____ will have his “_____ vehicle” in place to _____ us from God’s call (v 3b)
- D. _____ in His powerful grace will raise up a _____ to stop us (vv 4-7)
 1. God sends storms so that we will _____ the _____ path of life
 2. We can choose our _____ but not the _____