



April 19th Rev. Hugh Barlett

Jonah 1:1–17 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” ³But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord. ⁴But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. ⁶So the captain came and said to him, “What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish.” ⁷And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸Then they said to him, “Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” ⁹And he said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” ¹⁰Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. ¹¹Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. ¹²He said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.” ¹³Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. ¹⁴Therefore they called out to the Lord, “O Lord, let us not perish for this man’s life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you.” ¹⁵So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. ¹⁷And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

How far does God go in calling us back to himself?

**God will wake us up from our waywardness
All our bargaining will be futile
God can rescue us in our rebellion
Sometimes it will take more time**



When Jonah runs from God; He is stubborn in his disobedience. How have you been stubborn in your life? Why do we hold onto stubborn disbelief?

How has God uses circumstances to turn your heart to trust Him? Sometimes He uses blessings...sometimes hardships...which experiences have shaped your spiritual life?

What are ways that we bargain with God? How does this verse challenge the idea of bargaining with God? *Romans 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*

Notice how the sailors reverence God. How have you seen reverence for God grow?

God calls great fish to swallow Jonah. This certainly seems like the end of the story but it is just the beginning. How is this like the crucifixion and the resurrection?

Matthew 12:38–40 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.”³⁹ But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.⁴⁰ For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.



April 12th Rev. Hugh M. Barlett

Jonah 1:1–6 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.”
³ But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

How do you answer the call?

Why do you say “No”, when God says “Go”

Where do you go, when God says “No”

Disobedience flows from personal rejection

I see things differently

I want things to go a certain way

I am not willing to adjust my way

Disobedience grows in practical rebellion

Deceitfulness of sin blinds us

Selfish plans bind us

God’s gracious reach exceeds our running

Does God have concern for the wider world or just personal piety and the matters of the church? Do you sense that God is the Lord of all the world?

Does God have the right to tell you what to do? Do we recognize God’s authority? Do we see the clarity of God’s commands and calling?

How does obedience fit into the Christian life? What motivates to obey God?

When we run from God, how do we feel?

How does God’s grace turn us around?