

Jonah - God's Prophet On The Run Running From God

Jonah 1:1-17

Far too often the focus of the story of Jonah is on the big whale/fish rather than the big God of the story.

...two characters in Jonah - Jonah and God in a struggle for control.

- Is the story real?
 - Jonah is a real person mentioned in a real historical setting.
 - Jesus mentions Jonah 7 times as a historical character.
- As a prophet, God commands Jonah to arise, go, and preach to the great city of Nineveh.
 - Instead, Jonah leaves for Tarshish.
- Jonah is hesitant to go to Nineveh because:
 - He was afraid for his life;
 - He was afraid he would succeed.

...Psalm 139:7 Where can I go from your spirit, or where can I flee from your presence?

- Jonah's disobedience:
 - Jonah was deceived in his disobedience.
 - Jonah was doomed in his disobedience.
 - Jonah was disciplined in his disobedience.

God is God and I am not!

- **Lessons from the voyage**
 - We can never completely flee from God's presence.
 - In our disobedience, God will discipline us but not destroy us.
 - Our disobedience will have consequences for more than just ourselves...
 - Eventually, our disobedience will be made known.

What are the lessons we have learned, when we have disobeyed God's will?

What do we do?

How do we respond?