

Sermon: The Runaway

Text: Jonah 1

Discussion Questions:

- In the midst of the amazing and sometimes hard to believe storyline of the book of Jonah, we can easily lose sight of the fact that Jonah is a book about revival. When we get to the end of Jonah chapter 4, we'll see that an entire city turned to God, repented, and experienced a true spiritual awakening. This fact is particularly noteworthy in light of the things that we are seeing occur right here in our own country—specifically the “Asbury Revival” that has been taking place at Asbury University these past couple of weeks.
 - Take some time to discuss what you understand to be happening at Asbury.
 - What do you think prompted this awakening?
 - What role does the Holy Spirit play in these things?
 - Do you find these events concerning in any way?
 - What would be some examples of good fruit that ought to come from this?
- What does **2 Kings 14:23-25** tell you about this prophet named Jonah? Is this same person?
- The Book of Jonah begins with God speaking to Jonah, commanding him to go to the great city of Nineveh and preach. This very fact raises the question: How do I know if what I'm hearing is the Voice of God? Discuss how we can know if God is actually speaking to us.
- What is Jonah's response to God's command? Who is he fleeing from? (v. 3) Why do you think he responded in this way?
- What was God's response to Jonah's disobedience? Was God sending the storm to punish Jonah, or was He sending the storm to get his attention? Does God send storms into our lives for the same reason? Can you give any examples?
- Did Jonah's sin effect just him, or did it impact others as well? What can we learn from this?
- If God does, indeed, send storms in our life for restoration (and not retribution)—how should we be responding to Him today? What connection does our personal response to God's prompting have with God's desire for renewal and revival? Can you have one (personal repentance and renewal) without the other (revival and a larger move of God's Spirit)?