



DEEP & WIDE

HOW DEEP IS YOUR GRACE; HOW WIDE IS YOUR MISSION











DEEP & WIDE

JONAH 1:
THE RUNAWAY

Jonah 1

¹ The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."

³ But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

Jonah 1

⁴ Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish."

Jonah 1

⁷ Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?" He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

Jonah 1

10

This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the Lord, because he had already told them so.)

The sea was getting rougher and rougher.

So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?"

"Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you."

Jonah 1

13

Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. Then they cried out to the Lord, "Please, Lord, do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, Lord, have done as you pleased." Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to Him.

Jonah 1

¹⁷ Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

We often think of the Book of Jonah as being about...

- A rebellious prophet that is running from God
- A huge fish with a big belly
- A wicked city that repents

However, the Book of Jonah
is really about a loving and
compassionate God
who cares deeply about
each and every person
no matter who they are or
what they've done.

Jonah is not a book about Jonah.

Or a fish. Or a city.

It's a book about God.

Specifically—the love of God.

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God loved the people of Nineveh.

(Jonah did not!)

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God loved the people of Nineveh.

(Jonah did not!)

(And for good reason!)

Jonah 1:1-2

The word of the Lord came to
Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the
great city of Nineveh and preach
against it, because its wickedness
has come up before me."

Jonah son of Amittai

2 Kings 14:23-25

v. 25

“He (Jereboam II) was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Dead Sea, in accordandance with the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, spoken through His servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hopher.”

Jonah son of Amittai

God had used Jonah
to speak to his own people
with great success.

Jonah son of Amittai

**God had used Jonah
to speak to his own people
with great success.**

**Now God has a new assignment:
Ninevites**

Jonah 1:1-2

The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."



Assyria

Nineveh

500 Miles

Jerusalem

Egypt

Jonah couldn't stand the thought of:

a) going to Nineveh

b) talking to the people of Nineveh

c) God forgiving the Ninevites

c) God forgiving the Ninevites

Jonah 4:2 NLT

“That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people.”

Jonah 4:2 NLT

“That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people.”

Jonah ran.

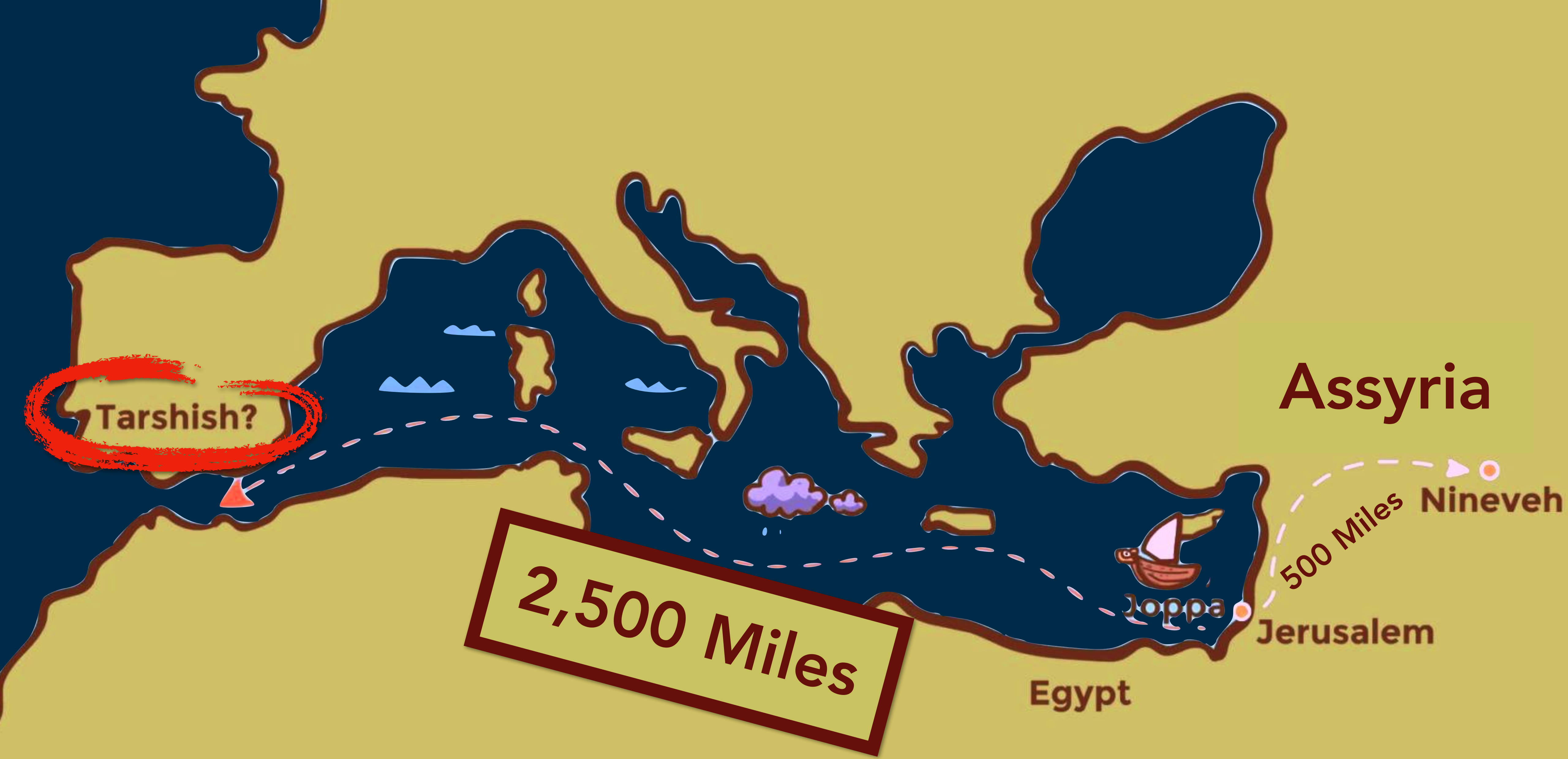
Not just from Nineveh—but from God.

It's basically what all rebellion is.

Saying no to God.

Jonah 4:3

“But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.”



Tarshish?

Assyria

Nineveh

500 Miles

Joppa

Jerusalem

Egypt

2,500 Miles

Down to Joppa

Down to Tarshish

Down into the hold

Down into a deep sleep

A diver is seen underwater, illuminated by a bright light source from above, creating a vertical beam of light and ripples on the surface. The background is a deep blue gradient.

**Rebellion always takes us
away from God.**

**And no matter how far you want to go—
there will always be a ship to take you
there.**

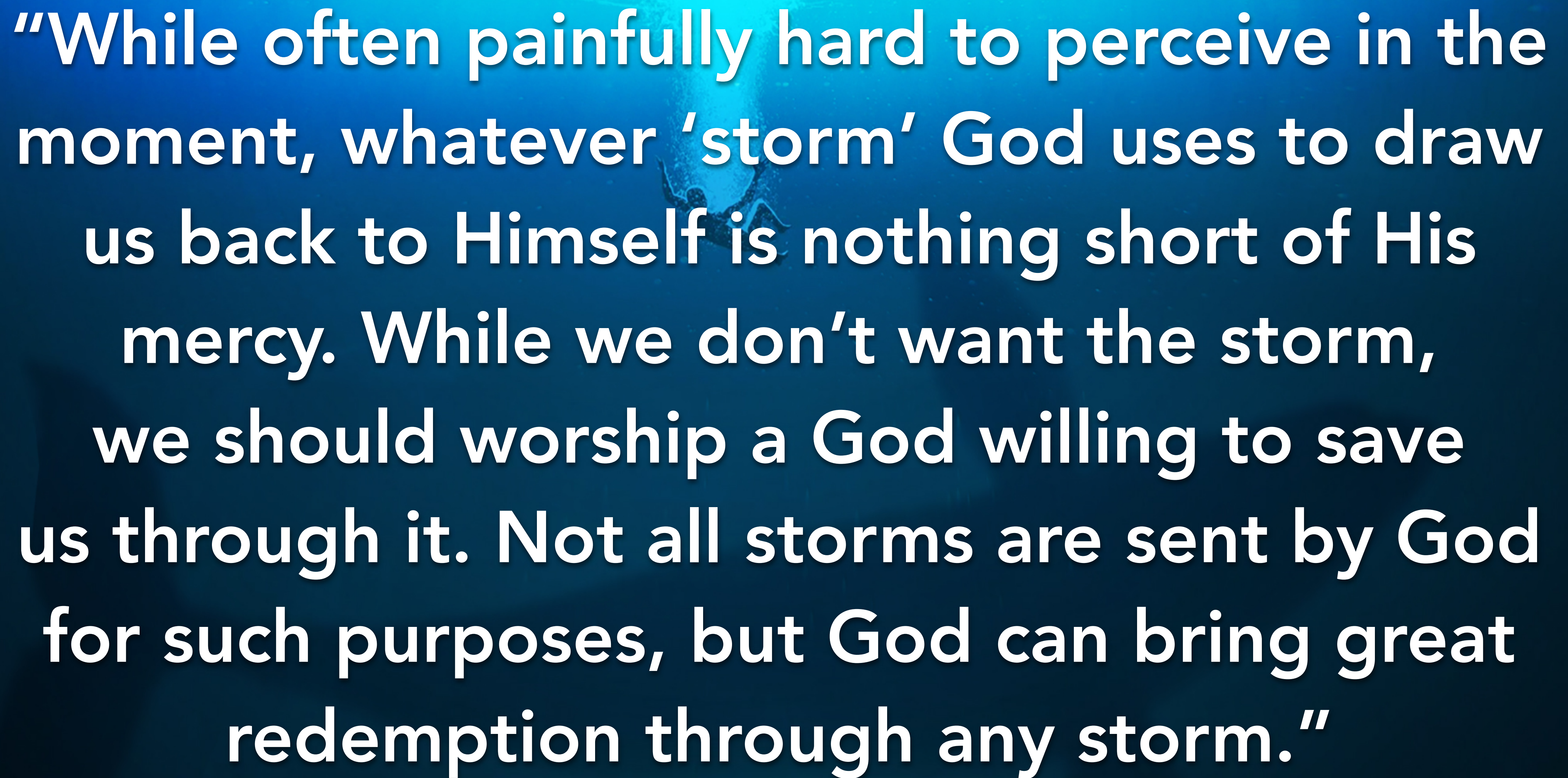
Down as far as you can go

A person is shown in a stormy sea, struggling against the waves. The scene is dark and turbulent, with white foam from the waves contrasting against the dark water. The person is in the center, with their arms outstretched, appearing to be in a state of distress or prayer. The overall mood is one of intense struggle and divine intervention.

v. 4

“But the Lord hurled a powerful wind over the sea, causing a violent storm...”

God wasn't sending a storm to punish Jonah. He did it to get his attention.



“While often painfully hard to perceive in the moment, whatever ‘storm’ God uses to draw us back to Himself is nothing short of His mercy. While we don’t want the storm, we should worship a God willing to save us through it. Not all storms are sent by God for such purposes, but God can bring great redemption through any storm.”

Spence Shelton



Jonah was running and hiding,
but he wasn't gone yet.

He knew who he was and
who he worshipped (v. 9).

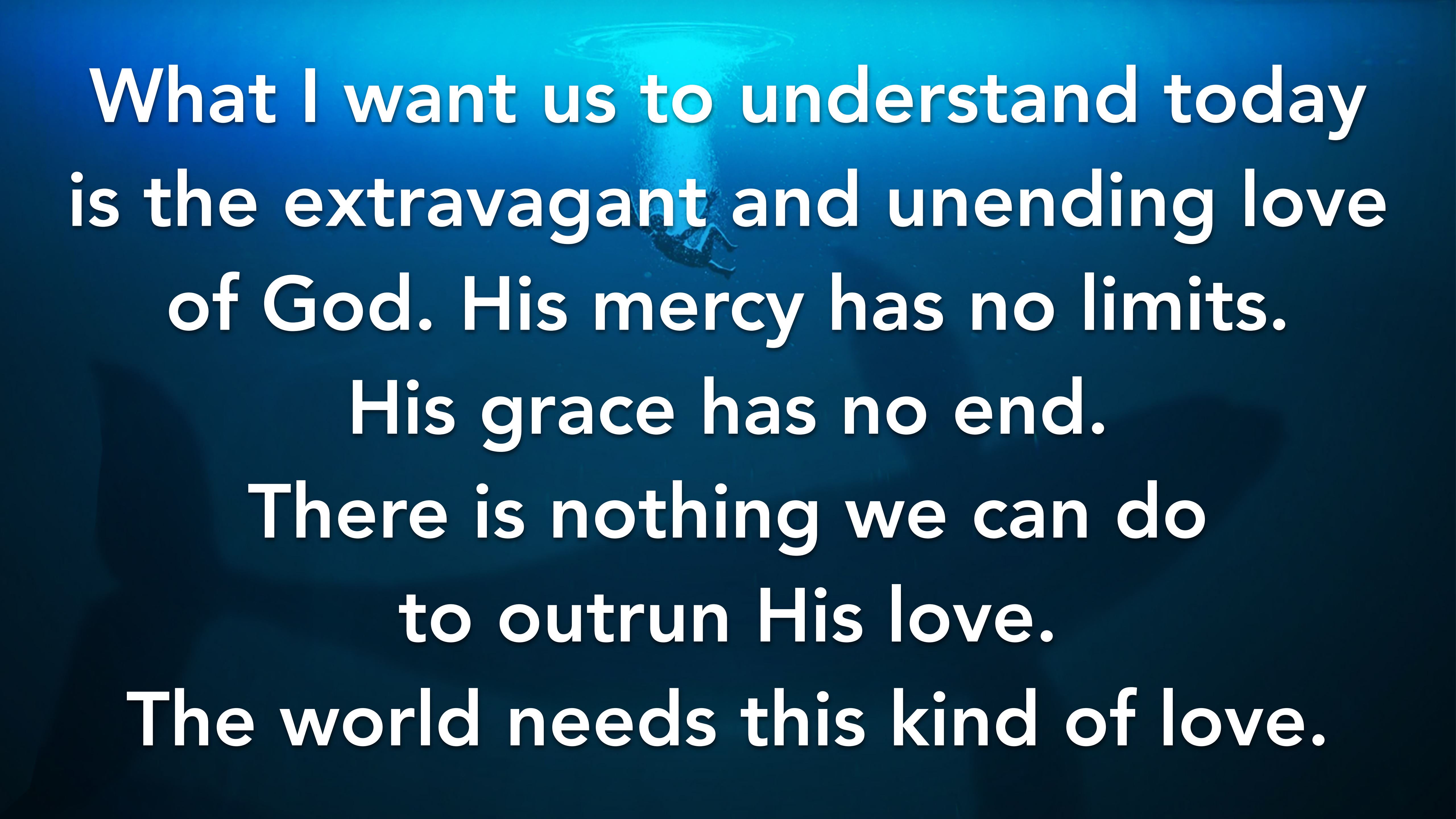
He acknowledged his fault, and
sought to save his shipmates. (v. 12)



The first revival took place on
the ship. (vv. 13-16)

The second and far-greater revival
was yet to come.

(Something we'll talk about
in weeks to come.)



What I want us to understand today
is the extravagant and unending love
of God. His mercy has no limits.

His grace has no end.

There is nothing we can do
to outrun His love.

The world needs this kind of love.



Chapel Service
February 8,
2023

Zach Meerkreebs

Envision Leadership Coordinator - Christian & Missionary Alliance



ASBURY
UNIVERSITY

Do not leave here before you learn about the love of God. Experience the love of God so you can pour it out. Pour it out. Pour it out. And He will fill you back up.

Asbury, the world needs this kind of love. Needs it. Syria and Turkey need this kind of love. Your mom and your dad need this kind of love. The teammates on your team, the people on your floor. Wilmore, Kentucky...Lexington, Kentucky...the United States needs this kind of love. They need a bunch of Christians experiencing the love of God so they can pour out the love of God. Not through their own efforts, and not through their own knowledge, but because they are filled with His love.

You can tell I take this serious. I pray that this sits on you guys like an itchy sweater. You've got an itch, and you've got to take care of it.

So...experience His love. Become the love of God by experiencing the love of God.

“So, Jesus, I pray that as we continue to worship, I pray that people would forget any of the intensity and passion of Zach. That it would fall to the ground like dust. But Holy Spirit, if you spoke to anyone, help them to pursue freedom so that they can experience more of your love—to be poured out, to love others. To become love in action.

Jesus, would you produce fruit in this room, in these souls, these minds and these hearts.

We pray specifically for these seniors, that as they prepare to go, that they will be filled with the love of God so they can pour out the love of God.

Jesus, do a new thing in our midst. Revive us by your love.”

**The service continued another 12 days.
The impact is now reaching millions.**

