



JONAH 1 THE GOD WHO WON'T LET GO

Big Idea: God is relentless in His pursuit of His people.

-- v. 1-3 – Jonah intentionally rebels against God's clear desire for his life.

-- v. 4 – **God relentlessly pursues His people.**

-- Jonah's **REBELLION** is the reason for this storm.

-- Not every trial in our lives is a consequence of our sin (John 9:1-3).

-- However, many trials we face are discipline from the Lord aimed at bringing us back to Him.

-- God loves us too much to allow us to live comfortably in our rebellion.

-- God always has a heavenly purpose in the earthly trials of His people.

-- v. 5-6 – Jonah's rebellion deadens his heart to the hurt he is inflicting on those around him.

-- v. 7 – **The storm is so intense that the sailors are convinced that there is divine **DISCIPLINE** at work.**

-- Casting lots here is the outworking of God's discipline upon Jonah.

-- v. 8-10 – **The sailors had obviously heard of the God of Israel.**

-- They had heard about God's power over the sea, and now they were experiencing it firsthand.

-- Sometimes, the people who should know God best forget that He the God of **JUSTICE**

-- v. 11-13 – **Jonah would rather die than give up his rebellion.**

-- The longer our rebellion lasts, the harder it gets to repent.

-- v. 14-16 – **The sailors are convinced that God will not **GIVE UP** His pursuit of Jonah.**

-- Rather than repent of his rebellion against God, Jonah chooses to be tossed in the sea.

-- v. 17 – God **APPOINTS** a great fish to be in just the right place at just the right time to save Jonah (Rom. 8:28, cf. Jonah 2:3).

-- God has preordained His sovereign purposes through our free choices.

-- James McDonald – “God would rather have you living anywhere than living in disobedience.”

Application: Hebrews 12

1.) Never **IGNORE** God’s discipline (v. 5b).

-- Never be foolish like Jonah who repeatedly ignored the Lord’s discipline and repeatedly refused to turn to the right (Proverbs 15:32).

2.) Never **QUIT** when times get tough (v. 5c).

-- God’s first purpose for us in trials is this: Don’t quit! (James 1:2-3).

-- Don’t react like Jonah who fell asleep to everything that mattered.

-- Consult Scripture, prayer, and counsel to find out why you find yourself underneath the Lord’s discipline.

3.) Recognize discipline from the Lord as the outworking of His **LOVE** for us (v. 6-9).

-- God pursues us relentlessly and disciplines us lovingly because, in His omniscience, He knows where our rebellion will take us.

-- If God weren’t all in for us, He would release us to our rebellion.

-- If you never sense God’s discipline upon your life, then you might not be His child (2 Corinthians 13:5, v. 7-8).

4.) Ask, “How does God intend to use this **TRIAL** for my good?” (v. 10-11).

-- God disciplines us for our good and growth (Genesis 50:19-20).

-- If not for God’s relentless pursuit of us, we would end up in some awful and regrettable places in life.

5.) Respond actively and **OBEDIENTLY** to God’s discipline (v. 12-13).

-- v. 17b – Jonah spent three excruciating days and nights in the belly of a fish before he would repent.

-- If you’re in a hole, stop digging. If God is pursuing, stop fleeing.