

Jonah 1:1-3

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." But Jonah arose 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 from the presence of the LORD.

"I don't want to do it."

"I don't want to love or even care about that person."

"I give up on my marriage and don't want to love my wife or husband anymore."

"I don't want to give that much to the church."

"I don't want to move."

"I don't want to?"

There are things throughout the bible that the Lord commands us to do. We are to share the gospel, love others, love our spouses (good times or bad), give back to the Lord what He blesses us with, and so on. But sometimes we become stubborn and say "no" to God.

That's just what Jonah did. God gave him a command to warn the people of Nineveh of His judgment, and Jonah said, "No way Lord." With his actions. But when God speaks, we need to listen and be obedient. It's not because God is a monster trying to control our lives, it's that He knows what is best for us and others. Just as a parent is with a child. They ask the child to do something and they say, "no". The parents are not being bad parents by telling their children the things that they should or shouldn't be doing. They are teaching them and/or protecting them from harm, or future harm.

So what has the Lord been telling you to do lately that you have said no to? Jonah was stuck in the belly of a great fish for three days before he came to his senses and said yes to God. What will it take for you to say yes?

† **Micah 6:6-8** *With what shall I come before the LORD, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?*