

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 in Nineveh of His judgment and Jonah said, "No way Lord."

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 just that He knows what is best for us. Just as a parent with a child. You ask the child to do something and they say, "no". The parents are not being bad parents by telling their children the things they should 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?

† **Jonah 1:17 & 2:10** *Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.*