

The Story Of Grace

(7) Puzzled By Grace

GRACE IS... PREDICTABLY... UNPREDICTABLE!

Jonah 1:1-3...

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." 3 But Jonah rose 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, away from the presence of the Lord.

YOU CAN RUN FROM GOD... BUT YOU CAN'T OUTFRAN HIM!

Jonah 1:8...

"Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"

Vs 9... (His Reply)

"I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of the Heaven, who made the sea and the Land."

Vs 11...

"What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?"

Vs 12...

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

Jonah 1:17...

*And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah.
And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.*

Jonah 2:2a...

*"In my **DISTRESS... I CALLED TO THE LORD...**"*

Jonah 2:2...

*"In my distress I called to the Lord and he answered me.
From the depths of the grace I called for help, and you listened to my cry."*

*The **PURPOSE** of **GOD'S DISCIPLINE** was not to **PAY HIM BACK ...**
But rather to **BRING HIM BACK!***

Jonah 2:3...

*"You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me;
all your waves and breakers swept over me."*

***DISCIPLINING GRACE** is certainly not **PLEASANT** at the time...
But it's **APPRECIATED LATER!***

TO RUN FROM GOD... IS TO RUN FROM GRACE!!

Jonah 2:10...

"the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land"

JONAH found himself caught in a **CONFLICT OF GRACE**... it was something that he was **QUICK** to **ASK FOR**... but not something he was **QUICK** to **DISPENSE**!

Jonah 4:2a...

**"IS THIS NOT WHAT I SAID WHEN I WAS STILL AT HOME?
THAT IS WHY I WAS SO QUICK TO FLEE TO TARSHISH!"**

Jonah 4:2b...

**"I KNEW THAT YOU WERE A GRACIOUS AND COMPASSIONATE GOD – SLOW TO
ANGER AND ABOUNDING IN LOVE – A GOD WHO RELENTS FROM SENDING CALAMITY"**

Meaning...

It takes a **LONG TIME** to **MAKE GOD MAD!**

JONAH wanted **JUSTICE**... **GOD** insisted on **MERCY**!

JONAH wanted **JUDGMENT**... **GOD** opted for **COMPASSION**!

Jonah 4:10-11...

*But the Lord said, "You have been **CONCERNED** about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. But Nineveh has more than a 120,000 people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well.*

SHOULD I NOT BE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS GREAT CITY?"