

RUNAWAY

A grown-up story about childish ways

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.” ³But 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.

Jonah 1:1-3 ESV

What do we know about Nineveh? Who is Jonah?

The message of this book could be summarized as
“DON’T BE LIKE JONAH.”

Why did he run?

NOT because he was...

- afraid
- lazy
- distracted
- misunderstanding God

Jonah ran because he considered the Ninevites “other.”

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. ²And he prayed to the Lord and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. ³Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

Jonah 4:1-3 ESV

Foreshadowing of another prophet by contrast

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”

Matthew 5:43-45 ESV

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20 ESV

*Do you have the spirit of
Jonah or Jesus?*

HEART OF THE MATTER:

Whom do I consider “other?”

Next Steps