

“Jonah: Lose Selfishness”

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I do want to encourage you this morning to open your Bible to a book of the Bible that is very well-known as far as its character and its content, but is very difficult to find. It is a book called Jonah. Now you're probably familiar with the story of Jonah in the Bible with the whale spitting him out on the beach, and we'll deal with that in just a moment. But finding the Book of Jonah in the Bible is not the easiest task because it comes right after Obadiah (I know you studied Obadiah which is only 21 verses this week!) and right before Micah. So do not apologize today if you go to the Table of Contents, that's why we print them. In fact, I'll go ahead and be honest with you: it's going to be easier today to go to the Table of Contents and go to the page number than it is to start flipping through all of what we call the Minor Prophets.

Which brings up this point before we get to the subject matter today: Jonah is considered a Minor Prophet. There are twelve of them in the Old Testament. They are minor not because of their message but because of their length. Last week we studied the Book of Isaiah, 66 chapters in length; this massive content of a book of the Bible. Yet Jonah is only 4 chapters; it might take up two pages, maybe three at the most in your Bible. Obadiah is 21 verses. So we're at a portion of scripture where if you take all of the Minor Prophets and add the pages together it's about the size of Isaiah. So that's why they have the name minor but it's not the message that is minor.

Today we come to an individual by the name of Jonah and he is one of the most well-known characters in the Bible, he's one of the most well-known stories in the Bible but he is also one of the most controversial characters in all of the Bible. You're probably familiar with the story; a prophet of God who is sent to the land of Nineveh. By the way, all of the other prophets in the Old Testament were either sent to Israel, the northern kingdom or to Judah, the southern kingdom. He is the one prophet to whom

God said go to a foreign land, go to a pagan group and tell them I want them to convert as well. That's going to play a part of the story in just a moment. But in the process, he decides to run from God. You're probably familiar with the story: the Lord prepares a great fish, it swallows him up, for three days he's in the belly of the fish, the whale, he is then spit up on the beach of Joppa, what we know as modern day Tel Aviv. It is a story that is so well known it is emulated in what we know as the famous Pinocchio story of Walt Disney. It's just a classic story that we're all familiar with.

But it is pretty controversial because when you think about a man being swallowed by a whale and three days later being spit up on the beach is there a part of you that just says, "Right; I don't know about that one." By the way, if you struggle with the story of Jonah then you're probably going to struggle with the story of Christmas; a woman, who has never been with a man, is having a child – right? And what we discover is some things are just unbelievably believable. Yet it's controversial.

Years ago when I was starting out in ministry and I was being interviewed for a youth ministry position, the different positions on church staffs always want to know the answer to this question; and it's an important question to ask: what is your view of the Bible? "I believe it; I believe it from cover to cover." So let's investigate that a little more and one of the questions that was always asked me was this: do you actually believe that Jonah was swallowed by a whale and spit up three days later? "Yes." And then we would move on. You say, "Well, why did you move on?" If you believe this one then you don't have a problem with the rest of the stuff because this is one of the stories of the Bible that is just out there as far as our believability.

That's the controversial part, but here's the confirmation of it. Jonah is the one person whom Jesus Christ pointed to in His ministry. He is surrounded by a group of people. They are struggling with the message of Jesus. He is saying that He is going to go, He's going to die and He's going to arise from the dead. They've never seen anybody arise from the dead; they've never

heard of anything like this. So Jesus says, “As Jonah was in the belly of the whale for three days and three nights, so I will be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.” If you struggle with the facts of Jonah, if you struggle with the whole whale-swallowing, spitting up three days later thing, please understand that Jesus Christ pointed to this story and said this is the one story that I want to picture in my offering of salvation for the world.

Now saying that, when we get to Jonah, and we’re going to begin in chapter 1, we’re going to deal with a subject matter today that is not per se the subject matter of the famous story of Jonah. We’re not even going to be in chapter 2 which is the famous place where he is in the belly of the whale because today we’re continuing in this series about being a loser, not so much with the message of Jonah as we are the man of Jonah. And we’re going to find out that Jonah emulates for us something that we need to lose that he never lost. Throughout this fall we’ve been dealing with different things, characters from Adam and Eve, to Isaiah, today Jonah, and next week to Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament. And as we’ve studied these characters, some of them have shown us how they lost something in their lives and it benefitted them in their relationship to God. Others demonstrated to us areas they needed to lose but did not and how it was detrimental to them.

Jonah is one of those characters where we’re going to see that from chapter 1 to chapter 4 there is a quality of his life that he never forsook, he never lost, and unfortunately, the majority of us suffer from it: selfishness. You say what is selfishness? Selfishness can be defined in three simple terms: me, myself, and I; the idea that it’s all about me and what I need and what I desire. And we’re going to see that that is the quality that unfortunately Jonah exhibited and that most of us do as well. And the challenge today from the Book of Jonah is how do we lose selfishness? And by the way, before we get to chapter 1, you do realize selfishness is the mantra of our culture. That’s what our whole culture teaches us: get all you can, while you can, as quick as you can. Our whole culture promotes us and getting and receiving, not the opposite. So the message today is politically incorrect and it’s also culturally incorrect, as well.

Beginning in Jonah 1:1: “1Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. 3But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.”

Now what I want to share with you today are four simple concepts, four simple ways that we know if selfishness has slipped into our lives. Now I’m going to be honest with you from the beginning: I do not think the majority of you woke up today and said, “I cannot wait to be selfish.” I don’t think you woke up this morning and said, “Yup, today is all about me!” Maybe you did, but hopefully you didn’t. The concepts today are not real blatant but they seep into our lives and we wake up a couple of weeks or months later and think I cannot believe that I’ve adopted that principle.

The first thing is this: how do we respond to the Word of God. In these first three verses it says, “The word of the Lord came unto Jonah.” God spoke to Jonah and said go to Nineveh. By the way, based where he was in Joppa, modern day Tel Aviv, Nineveh is northern Iraq. “Basically I need you to go east for Me.” Jonah went to Tarshish which was west. Selfishness is seeping into your life if the decisions you make, the actions that you partake of, your life goes completely against the Word of God.

Now let me share with you what this means; I’m going to start with the basics. Jesus said speaking of Himself, “I am the way, I’m the truth, I’m the life. Nobody comes to the Father but by Me.” In other words, if you want your sins forgiven and you want to end up eventually in a place the Bible calls Heaven, Jesus is the only way. Do you realize that according to the Bible if you adopt another philosophy you’re being selfish? Because you’re basically saying I want it my way! By the way, isn’t that a slogan of one of our fast food chains, “Have it your way”? We think that because it’s my way it must be the best way,

right? “And I think this is a better way, God. This is a better way to live life.”

Now that’s really on the basics but let’s get to real brass tacks for a moment. Let me go ahead and share with you that the next few minutes are not going to be any fun and the next few minutes are going to be even less fun. In 1 Corinthians chapter 6 it tells us to flee (that means get away) fornication. In other words, outside of what we know as the bounds of Biblical marriage, do not have anything to do with anybody else that you shouldn’t be doing anything with; get away from it. You say how are we selfish? “But Lord, You don’t understand. I’ve got needs! And they’re not meeting them so I need my needs met.” I, I, I. Do you realize that the root of that is selfishness? It’s about wanting what I want, desiring what I want, no matter what God said. “I know, God, you told me not to do this, but You don’t understand I need this, I want this.” That’s what selfishness is at its root. It’s saying God I don’t care what You’ve said, this is what I want or desire.

Let’s go a little further in the relationship category. We get to the Book of Ephesians chapter 5 and it gives us some guidelines for a healthy Biblical marriage. Now for those of you in the room who are single, you’ve just breathed a sigh of relief, “Okay this one is off me.” Guys, do you know what it says about us? We are to love our wives as Christ loves the church. Now guys I know you don’t say this out loud because you’re alive but how many of you have ever thought, “Do you know how she talks to me? Do you know how she treats me? Do you know what attitude I get from her? What do you mean, treat her like Christ does the church? Have you met my wife?” Now I’ve gotten in your world, haven’t I? And yet it tells us, guys, love your wife as Christ loves the church. Do you ever wonder if maybe that’s how Jesus hears us? Have you seen how He (Jesus) treats me? Have you heard how He talks to me? Have you seen how He ignores me?

Then to the wives, there’s that passage of scripture that always comes up in marriage counseling. It says wives are to submit themselves to their husbands and everybody born in this century just panics at that phrase.

“Have you met my husband? He’s a lazy bum, sitting on the couch, eating potato chips, watching a ball game. I’m not submitting to that!” I, I, I.

The Word of God is very clear on not only how we get saved but how we’re to respond to others. How about this one: love your enemies? Pray for them. “You don’t know my enemies; they’re mean folks.” My enemies. Do you see that personal pronoun that keeps creeping up time and time again? How about this one, it’s the Christmas season, it’s the last of the Ten Commandments: thou shall not covet. Do you know what our entire culture promotes? Thou shall covet! That’s why they have windows in front of the stores so that when you walk by you can say, “Oh, I don’t have one of those. I need one of those. My life would be better with one of those.” Do you notice the “I” and “my” that continues to be used?

So when we find ourselves in a position when we are literally living life in completely the opposite direction of the Word of God, we can call it sin because it is, we can call it rebellion because it is, but really it is selfishness. It’s this attitude that we know how better to live life than God does. When we go out on a tangent or we live life however, we’re literally saying, “God, I know how better to live this thing called life than You do. I don’t care what You’ve said I need to do, but this is how I’m going to do it anyway.” That’s exactly what Jonah did. And Jonah ended up in a mess, guys, because God said go this way and he went the other way. And that’s one of the very obvious ways of how we respond to God; that we can allow selfishness to creep into our lives.

But then there’s the second one in the same chapter that is a little less obvious. Verses 4-5: “4But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken. 5Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.”

Now if you’re familiar with the story, what’s about to take place is

that Jonah is going to actually be thrown overboard by the men of the ship because he tells them the reason the wind and the waves are there is because he is running from God. As soon as they throw him into the sea what happens? Everything calms down, the big fish comes and gets Jonah and we get to the most famous part of the story.

But what I want to share with you is how we end up getting selfish isn't just how we respond to the Word of God, it's also how we respond to the "wooing" of God. Now technically, the word "wooing" is not a word, but the word "woo" is. It means to urge, to incite, to encourage somebody to go a certain direction or to do a certain thing. And I firmly believe that here in Jonah chapter 1 God is doing everything He can to get Jonah's attention. He's gone against the ways of God; he's gone against the Word of God. He finds himself in a boat with the waves crashing, the wind blowing, men screaming and throwing things off the ship and where is he? He's in the side of the boat asleep. God is doing everything He can to get Jonah's attention. He's using nature, He's using people. The boat has got to be rocking; it has got to be vibrating surely, and he is completely ignoring it.

Now let me share with you how this works in a very practical way. I'm going to make a hypothetical example. I do not mean this about anybody's life in particular, this is made up. So if you think I'm talking about you, I promise, I am not. Here's a hypothetical example. A teenager (no offense), wakes up in the morning, has a conversation with their sibling, comes in the kitchen and says, "Mom, everybody's mean to me!" Has a conversation with Mom and says, "Mom, you're mean to me, too!" Goes to school and has a conversation with a teacher; texts somebody and says, "I can't believe that teacher is so mean to me!" Goes to practice and says, "I can't believe my teammates are so mean to me, my coach is so mean to me." Goes to hang out with a friend and says, "You're mean to me, too!" You know, at some point, maybe it's you! "It's my sister, it's my Mom, it's my teacher." How many times have you heard somebody say that everybody has the problem but them?

Sometimes everything in life is completely out of whack because God is trying to get our attention. The waves are crashing, the wind is blowing, people are yelling and he is asleep. In other words, you just want to go to Jonah and say, “Wake up, you’re the problem!” Hey guys, wake up – maybe you’re the problem! Everybody is whining and crying about everything going on around them. And the problem in the story wasn’t everybody else; the problem was Jonah. And that’s selfishness when God is doing everything He can to get our attention and all we do is blame everybody else. What Jonah really needed to do was look in a spiritual mirror and say this one is about me, the problem is my problem. And God is trying to get his attention; God is trying to woo him and he is just ignoring it.

Now we’re going to fast-forward through chapter 2. You know the story, he gets thrown overboard, he goes into the sea, the sea calms down, and he gets swallowed by the fish. Chapter 2 is a very disgusting passage of scripture because he gets spit out on the beach and I don’t know about you but after three days in the belly of a whale, you’re probably not smelling real good, probably not looking real good; in fact, let me just be honest, you’re looking pretty nasty at that point. He gets off the beach in Joppa, modern-day Tel Aviv.

We pick up the story in Jonah chapter 3 and we’re going to head into the third way that he exhibits for us and we tend to become selfish. It says, “1And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, 2Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. 3So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days’ journey. 4And Jonah began to enter into the city a day’s journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. 5So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.”

Now you may be tempted to think, “Aha! Jonah finally gets it right.” I want to show you in just a moment, particularly a phrase in this passage,

that Jonah, even though he does technically what God asks him to do, even though technically he goes to the place God told him to go, and says what he's supposed to say, what is selfishness: doing it our way and not God's way. I believe what we see here is not a rejection or response to the Word of God, not a rejection of the wooing of God, but the way he responds to the work of God. And this is where oftentimes we can get trapped thinking if I'm doing things on "behalf of God," or it looks spiritual or religious then it can't be selfish.

Let me ask you a very simple question: do the things that you supposedly do, give, and go on behalf of God, do you do it because God desires it and you want to give it or is it because it makes you feel better about yourself? Because if it makes us feel better about ourselves, it's selfish.

Let me point out what I mean. In verse 3 it says, "Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey. Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried." Now let me tell you what that means. In those days obviously they did not have the transportation access that we do. To walk from one end of the city to the other end took three days. How long did he spend preaching? One. Now this is going to be really bad for the cameras, so you're going to have to take your eyes off the screen. I'm going to demonstrate to you how Jonah preached; this is a real simple illustration. "Repent!" You say how do you know that's what he did? Three days journey took one day – did Jonah want them to repent? No. Was he excited about what God asked him to do? No. So what Jonah did was the minimum, and we get trapped in this all the time, "I'm just going to do the minimum requirement and I'll feel like I've accomplished something and I've checked off the box." Don't get trapped in the selfish mentality of "checking off boxes" for God; "I went to church this week. I went to church this month. I gave this. I did it; I'm done with it and it's over." That's what Jonah did. "God, I went to Nineveh and I told them to repent. You didn't say I had to go door-to-door. You just said do it; so I did it."

And what happens is we get trapped into the selfish concept known as religion.

Now you may think of religion as a “good” thing, but do you realize that every “religious leader” in the world with the exception of Jesus instituted a system of checking off boxes? I give a certain amount of money, I show up a certain amount of times, I say a certain amount of prayers, I read a certain amount of material. You can check off the box. Let me tell you what that is; let me give you another word for religion: selfishness - because I feel better about myself when I did what I thought I needed to do so that I’m good. What did Jesus institute? Relationship. What He basically said was we had a broken relationship. We were sinful humanity; He is sinless God. And it’s not about checking off boxes or the people whom He ministered to had enough boxes checked off to make it. He said you can’t check off enough “I’ve been good,” or “I haven’t been bad,” or “I have given enough or gone enough.” He said it’s not about checking off boxes; it’s about actually having a relationship.

Now ladies and men, I’m going to share with you how the Lord communicates this to your life every day of your life in relationships and you don’t even realize it. How many times, guys (I’m going to pick on us for a moment), has your wife, your significant other, your girlfriend or whomever, has she said something to you of a negative nature like you just don’t seem to understand or you obviously don’t listen to me or where were you when I told you? And she walks out of the room and you go, “Huh? I thought I did that.” Now those of you who are laughing are married; you understand what I’m talking about. Because what happens is we think well, I did the minimum, I showed up, I did this, I did what you told me to do. Do you know what you discover? Marriage isn’t about checking off boxes, it’s about a relationship. And a relationship is two people together, not checking off boxes. And what Jesus said is I am in a relationship with you.

Now let me tell you where this brings the selflessness out. Every religion in the world is a selfish religion: if I just give enough, pray enough, do enough then I’m good to go. Once again, “I,” right? Let me share with you the selflessness of what Jesus preached, promoted, and we are to believe. When we understand that He wants a relationship with us and

we need a relationship with Him, we understand we are sinful people. We understand that we've gone the wrong way, done the wrong things, said the wrong things, and thought the wrong things. There's nothing to be proud of there, is it? There is nothing where you can take a step back and say, "Boy, I knocked it out of the park on that one!" When you come to an understanding that you need Jesus as your Savior, there is nothing selfish about it because you've got nothing to show for. You're literally saying, "Okay God, I can't do this on my own. I can't work my way out of this; I can't pay my way out of this; I can't do stuff out of this. I'm in a mess and I need You to help me." There is no selfishness involved.

Yet what we see in Jonah's life is that he just checked off a box. He said I went to Nineveh, I said what I was supposed to say, I'm good. And then what happens? The Ninevites by the droves repent, led by the king of the city. It says that he rips his clothes, he puts ashes on his head; basically it's a sign of humility and repentance. And it says the whole city turns to the Lord. That is where we pick up the final part of the story in Jonah chapter 4. We've seen Jonah in his response to the Word of God. We've seen Jonah in his response to the wooing of God. We've seen Jonah even respond selfishly to the work of God, doing it for the wrong reasons. And now we discover that Jonah has an issue of selfishness in the ways of God.

Jonah 4:1-9: "1But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry. 2And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repent you of the evil. 3Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live. 4Then said the LORD, Do you well to be angry? 5So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city. 6And the LORD God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver

him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd. 7But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered. 8And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live. 9And God said to Jonah, Do thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death.”

Now I want to demonstrate to you what I consider the most subtle of the seeping into selfishness here. We talk about going completely against the Word of God. If it says “thou shall not” and you “thou shall,” you get that one; but what we find here in chapter 4 is that in response to the Ninevites repenting Jonah is upset about the ways of God. He is mad about the motives of God, the intents of God and why God does what God does. And he begins with this really poor attitude. In verse 1 he says, “Lord, why did You save them? Why did You do this thing?” Let me share with you what most of us desire: revenge. The Bible says, “Revenge is mine, saith the Lord.”

Now let me get into our world for just a moment because what I’m about to share is how all of us feel at some time in our lives. Please don’t answer out loud but you can smile if you want to: do you believe that this world would be a better place without a few people on it? And you know who I’m talking about! Now they’re different for every one of us. Maybe it’s somebody that we’re going to school with, maybe it’s somebody we work with, maybe it’s somebody we live next to and you just say if they would just vaporize this world would be a better place. Am I the only one who thinks that at times? As you’re going through the crowd at Wal-Mart you’re saying, “Lord, why are they here? I don’t get this.” You’ve never had those thoughts before? I know you have! There is someone in your life that drives you nuts, drives you crazy. You just think the world would be so much better without them!

I had a conversation with a man in our church this weekend, one of the best conversations I’ve had in recent days. And he was talking about the fact

that we have now as this vision statement of our church “Change the World, Start Here.” And here is what he shared with me. “Over the last couple of years, God has really been working on me. Now I understand that God is more interested in converting people than killing them.” And what he meant by that is there are people in the world who drive you nuts, there are people in the world you say, “God, why are they even allowed to live?” but do you not understand God wants them saved as much as He wanted you saved?

And his attitude was “God, these people don’t deserve to exist, these people don’t deserve to live.” Why? And he had that attitude issue and God said you don’t understand, I want everybody, in our terminology, to know about Jesus whether you like them or not; I want everybody to hear the message of Jesus whether you think they should or not. So a selfless attitude should be that we’re more interested in people coming to know Jesus than the problem that they are in our lives. Ouch! That’s where it doesn’t get any fun.

Then it goes on because he’s over there pouting. In our terminology he’s on the couch with the remote, just lounging back and he’s got a grumpy attitude. And the Lord causes a gourd, a large flower so to speak. And it says that Jonah enjoys it. “Ah, isn’t this nice? It was hot, now it’s cool. I was inconvenienced, now I’m comfortable.” Sometimes our selfishness comes out in how we see the ways of God in response to our atmosphere. Let me show you how this works. If we’re more interested in ourselves being comfortable than others being converted then we’ve got a problem. Jonah got more excited that he was in the shade than a whole city was coming to know the Lord. Uh-oh; this isn’t fun, is it? Because most of our lives are completely saturated with what can give my life better satisfaction, what can make me happier, what can make me more comfortable, what can make my life more convenient? Yet here in this story we see that there were groups of people needing to be and desiring to be saved and we’re more concerned with the life as we have it.

Then there’s this last thing: the Lord brings a worm. The worm eats the gourd and the vehement east wind and the sun come up and all of a sudden Jonah is

miserable again. And it's this last point that I think is the point of Jonah that every one of us needs to get when we talk about selfishness. Jonah was more concerned about what he lost than what others had the opportunity to gain. He lost his comfort; they had the opportunity to gain salvation and he's upset about that.

Last night after the Living Christmas Tree performance everybody was settling down and we were about to leave the campus. I'm walking into our church offices and somebody walks by with a brand new shiny penny and they throw it to me and say, "Don't say I never gave you anything." No big deal, right? I don't think there is any one of you here today that would have a problem if you need a penny, here's a penny. No big deal. Why? Because it's one percent of a dollar and honestly, there's not much you can buy for a dollar that you couldn't buy for ninety-nine cents. And we don't think it's any big deal.

Yet next week we're going to gather as a church body, you've got a worship guide in front of you about our Global One Missions Offering, and we're going to talk about people not only going on missions, being called to missions, but giving to missions. And what our Missions Team has done is encouraged us, you and me, to give one percent of our resources to missions. When it's a penny, we don't think it's a big deal. But when it's one percent of everything all of a sudden this selfishness creeps in because we say, "But I had plans for that. I wanted to buy that."

And by the way, let me be honest with you for a moment, because before I'm a pastor, I'm a husband and a dad. And there are things that I would like to provide for my wife. There are trips I would like to take with my children. And I start thinking in terms and then I realize if I'm going to give and I'm going to be sacrificial so that people can go around the world and tell other people about Jesus and I'm more upset about the toy I didn't get than the message they need to hear then I've got a really big issue in my life because I'm more upset with what I can lose than what they have the opportunity to gain. So I look at my life and I realize my wife knows Jesus, my kids know Jesus; don't other wives and kids in the world need to hear

about Jesus too? So if my attitude is I'm more interested in where I can go or what I can have than what they need to hear then I've got a selfishness issue.

This is where it gets rough because Jonah begins very selfish but he also ends very selfish. I mentioned to you at the beginning of the message that I did not enjoy this week. I did not enjoy my time with Jonah. Let me tell you why. It's only four chapters long, right? I cannot tell you how many times I read through Jonah this week; I've almost got it memorized. I tried to find something good about Jonah this week, maybe there is some redeeming quality about this guy, something that looks good on a resume. Do you know what I found out? His whole life was saturated with me, myself, and I. And I think unfortunately our culture has promoted the same thing and even the "church" has adopted the culture. So the question is this: are we going to lose selfishness or are we going to keep trying to gain the world? Let's pray.