

Jonah 1:1-6

The Recalcitrant Prophet

From the word “go” ...

I. Oh, Jonah

- A. God’s Directive
- B. The Prophets Issues
 - A. The Stinking Ninevites
 - B. God’s Mercy
 - C. Jonah’s Heart
- C. Oppositional Actions

II. Our God

- A. Anger, Grace
- B. And the Gospel

III. I, Jonah

- A. Jesus’ Commands
- B. Our Arguments
- C. Inner Transformation

... price-check the ticket.

Children, Listen ...

1. What did God tell Jonah to do?
2. What did he do?
3. Why do you think he did that?
4. Why is it important for sinners to know that God is angry with them?
5. How does God show great mercy to sinners like us?

From the Word “Go”

The book of Jonah is probably one of the most familiar stories in the Bible. It has been humorously depicted in countless children’s books and butchered by higher critical “theologians.” This is hardly a charming kid’s story and it is certainly not a “big fish story” as some would have it. Granted, there is some unavoidable amusing irony in the tale and a REALLY BIG fish does make a cameo appearance. But when we look under the surface of the Book of Jonah we discover it to be profoundly deep as it addresses matters of eternity. We discover great things about God, terribly disturbing things about human nature, and we will be directed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ among other things. The book begins with an immediate conflict of interests: the problem for Jonah is that God’s interest clashes with his – never a good thing. Jonah’s problems start from the word “go,” literally. God said “go” ... Jonah said “no.” This simple opposition to God by the prophet summarizes the essential nature of sin. Alas, it is a conflict we can all relate to. I trust that in our short journey with God’s prophet Jonah we will learn more about our God, ourselves, and the power of the Gospel of grace.