



³⁹But Jesus replied: You want a sign because you are evil and won't believe! But the only sign you will get is the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰He was in the stomach of a big fish for three days and nights, just as the Son of Man will be deep in the earth for three days and nights.
Matthew 12:39-40 (CEV)

The story of Jonah can be trusted because Jesus validated its truth.

Jeroboam extended the boundaries of Israel from Lebo-Hamath in the north to the Dead Sea in the south, just as the Lord had promised his servant Jonah son of Amittai, who was a prophet from Gath-Hepher.
2 Kings 14:25 (CEV)

¹The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: ²"Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." ³But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish.
Jonah 1:1-3 (NIV)

Jonah was a patriot and did not want to deal with Israel's enemies.

Jonah's hatred toward Nineveh led him to disobey God.

^{1:17}Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. ... ^{2:1}Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. ... ^{2:10}And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land. ^{3:1}Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: ²"Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." ³Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh.
Jonah 1:17, 2:1, 2:10, 3:1-3 (NIV)

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.
Jonah 3:10 (NIV)

God wanted to use Jonah as His voice for the Ninevites. As a result, Nineveh repented, and God relented.

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry.
Jonah 4:1 (NIV)

Jonah continued to hate his enemies, despite God's compassion.

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ
Philippians 3:20 (NIV)

Our primary allegiance is to Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.

¹³Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" ¹⁴"Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come."
Joshua 5:13-14

God's agenda is not our agenda.

- **God loves Democrats and Republicans and has compassion for both.**
- **Both sides of the political and cultural divide need Jesus.**
- **Hating the other side is a sin and is disobedient to God.**



TEACHING BIG IDEA:

Being a Christian Patriot is disobedient. Being a Patriotic Christian aligns us with God.

The current culture wars lead to hatred and division. Do you need to repent of any hate toward others?

MY NOTES:



STAY CONNECTED:

Download the Westside Leavenworth App in your App Store or visit westsideleavenworth.com

TEACHING SUMMARY:

Jonah was a prophet of the Old Testament nation of Israel. Jonah was a patriot and passionately supported his country. God gave an assignment to Jonah to be His voice to the Ninevites, a hated enemy of Israel. Jonah received the assignment from God; and, instead of going to Nineveh, he ran away in the opposite direction.

Jonah ends up in a big fish, he prays, and God rescues Jonah from the fish. God continued to want to use Jonah as His voice of judgment for the Ninevites. As a result of Jonah's words, Nineveh repented, and God relented from His judgment.

Instead of marveling at God's compassion, Jonah was angry and felt that God was very wrong. Jonah had his modifiers in the wrong order. Instead of being a patriotic God follower, Jonah was a God-following patriot. He allowed his patriotism to affect how he followed God.

As Patriotic Christians, our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20). Like the "commander of the army of the Lord that Joshua confronted with the question, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" we should embrace the same answer, "Neither!" (Joshua 5:13-14). We need to

stand firm on our biblical values, but we are called to love our enemies with the same sacrificial love that Jesus gives to us.

TALK IT OVER:

Are you patriotic? Why or why not?

What are the differences between Christian Patriots and Patriotic Christians?

What are examples of the cultural divisions in our nation? Does God really love those with whom you disagree? Why or why not?

What are ways you can reach out to those with whom you disagree?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Mon: Galatians 2:11-20

Tue: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Wed: 1 Peter 2:1-10

Thu: Romans 8:1-11

Fri: Philippians 3:17-21

Sat: Romans 6:1-11