

**You Are There:**  
**Jonah & the Great Fish**  
October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

God's Patience

- **The Command!**

**Jonah 1:1-3** The LORD gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: <sup>2</sup> "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are." <sup>3</sup> But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the LORD. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the LORD by sailing to Tarshish.

- **Whose Fault?**

**Jonah 1:9-11** Jonah answered, "I am a Hebrew, and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land." <sup>10</sup> The sailors were terrified when they heard this, for he had already told them he was running away from the LORD. "Oh, why did you do it?" they groaned. <sup>11</sup> And since the storm was getting worse all the time, they asked him, "What should we do to you to stop this storm?"

- **The Great Fish**

**Jonah 1:15-17** Then the sailors picked Jonah up and threw him into the raging sea, and the storm stopped at once! <sup>16</sup> The sailors were awestruck by the LORD's great power, and they offered him a sacrifice and vowed to serve him. <sup>17</sup> Now the LORD had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights.

God's Power

- **Jonah's Despair**

**Jonah 2:1-2** "I cried out to the LORD in my great trouble, and he answered me. I called to you from the land of the dead, and LORD, you heard me!

- **Jonah's Decision**

**Jonah 2:7-9** As my life was slipping away, I remembered the LORD. And my earnest prayer went out to you in your holy Temple. <sup>8</sup> Those who worship false gods turn their backs on all God's mercies.<sup>9</sup> But I will offer sacrifices to you with songs of praise, and I will fulfill all my vows. For my salvation comes from the LORD alone."

- **Jonah's Deliverance**

**Jonah 2:10** Then the LORD ordered the fish to spit Jonah out onto the beach.

## God's Pardon

- **The Message**

**Jonah 3:4** On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: "Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!"

- **Nineveh's Confession**

**Jonah 3:5** The people of Nineveh believed God's message, and from the greatest to the least, they declared a fast and put on burlap to show their sorrow.

- **God's Mercy**

**Jonah 3:10** When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened.

## God's Compassion

- **Jonah's Complaint**

**Jonah 4:1-3** This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. 2 So he complained to the Lord about it: "Didn't I say before I left home that you would do this, Lord? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people. 3 Just kill me now, Lord! I'd rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen."

- **Jonah's Whining**

**Jonah 4:9** Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry because the plant died?" "Yes," Jonah retorted, "even angry enough to die!"

- **God's Love**

**Jonah 4:10-11** Then the LORD said, "You feel sorry about the plant, though you did nothing to put it there. It came quickly and died quickly. <sup>11</sup> But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness, not to mention all the animals. Shouldn't I feel sorry for such a great city?"

***Where are you today...***

***On the run? Complaining?***

***Or Living on the Next Level?***