

MAJOR LESSONS FROM THE MINOR PROPHETS

Jonah: God's Heart

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. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.
(Jonah 1:1-3)

Praying in the belly:

- ▶ *Jonah 2:5,6*

*What I have vowed I will make good.
I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the Lord.’ (Jonah 2:9b)*

Wrestling with his own heart:

- Prejudice
- Politics

Wrestling with God's heart:

Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” (Jonah 3:4)

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)

*¹But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the Lord, "Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. **I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.***
(Jonah 4:1,2)

¹⁰But the Lord said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?" (Jonah 4:10,11)

Stepping toward God's heart:

- ▶ What relationships need reconciling?
- ▶ Who could I include in my relational circle?
- ▶ Where is my own heart with God?

For as Jonah was three days and nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and nights in the heart of the earth.
(Matthew 12:40)