

# JONAH

## God's Problem Child



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## PART 4: JONAH RUNS WITH GOD

So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Jonah 3:3

**Big Question:** Have you ever felt that you may have inadvertently missed God's will? If so, how do you view your life now?

### 1. GOD GAVE JONAH A SECOND CHANCE.

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." Jonah 3:1-2

### 2. JONAH OBEYED GOD'S WILL.

So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" Jonah 3:3-4

### 3. THE NINEVITES REPENTED.

And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish." Jonah 3:5-9

### 4. GOD SHOWED MERCY.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it. Jonah 3:10

## SEVEN WAYS TO DISCOVER GOD'S WILL

1) \_\_\_\_\_

While the Bible does not reveal God's individual will for every decision the believer is to make, (whom to marry, what career to pursue, etc.), it does reveal God's moral will. Within God's moral will we are free to make choices. (1 Cor. 10:31)

2) \_\_\_\_\_

Open and closed doors are two most obvious ways that God uses to reveal His will for you. For instance, if you apply for a job, and several turn down your application, you should probably conclude that God is closing doors and saying, 'No.' (Rev. 3:8)

3) \_\_\_\_\_

The inner witness is that ministry of the Holy Spirit in which He guides the believer through personal impressions, and inner peace within the heart, to reveal God's individual will. (Col. 3:15).

4) \_\_\_\_\_

God's individual will can be revealed through other mature, Bible-believing Christians whose walk is consistent with God's word. The Holy Spirit is to be the final Counselor, however. (Prov. 15:22)

5) \_\_\_\_\_

Our real desires will correspond perfectly to His will when we are living in obedience to His Word. (Psa. 119:10)

6) \_\_\_\_\_

Sometimes you may feel that you are being led to do something which doesn't make sense to you. Guidance, which appears to go against common sense, should be followed only if the Lord gives you very clear and definite leading. (Jas. 1:5)

7) \_\_\_\_\_

Knowing God's will comes primarily from knowing God in a close, loving relationship. (Psalm 42:1)