

JONAH'S GREAT RESISTANCE

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES SERIES - Part 2

Ben Rudolph

Good morning Life Fellowship. It is good to see you this morning. Please turn in your Bibles to Jonah Chapter 1 where we are going to be again. It was a great way to start our worship service hearing the song that Jason sang because that song was literally from the book of Jonah where we are going to be looking this morning. As you know this is a series that we called 'Love Your Enemies.' And loving our enemies is one of the hardest things that we need to do. Today as we look at Jonah we are going to look at his response to God's directive.

One of the things that my wife and I love to do is to take these personality tests, because obviously we marry someone who is a lot different than we are. So my wife and I are no different than most couples, and one of the things we like to do is take some of the all kinds of personality tests, like Myers-Briggs and others put out. One of the things that my wife and I discovered a couple of years ago was the Enneagram test. Now I know whenever I say Enneagram in church some of you may think it is demonic. All I am saying is it is a personality test to us.

Now I tested as a 9 which is called the Peacemaker, and my wife was an 8 which is called the Challenger. There are all different numbers with it that you know about if you have ever taken that test. But it is always fascinating to me to see the gifts and the strengths that my wife and I have that complement each other. Certain things that she is really good at I may be very low in, and things that I am really good at she may not be as gifted in. So it is amazing to see how God has brought us together.

So when it comes to what happens when people express their feelings about not wanting to do something, there are certain personalities that if they don't want to do something, they are going to let you know it. And then there are other people who are quieter, more reserved, but they are still not going to do whatever it is. And what I love about this story in the book of Jonah is that no matter what personality you are you are going to identify with Jonah at some level here.

As I said last week I want us to take off our Bible story glasses and really look at this story of Jonah in a fresh way because there is something profound that I think God has for us today. As you know Jonah is having this great struggle with God. God had called Jonah to go to Nineveh and to tell them that unless they repent He was going to destroy them. And Jonah's problem with God wasn't that he was scared of going to the Ninevites even though they were a wicked, horrible people. Jonah's great struggle with God was that God was willing to show mercy and compassion on a people that Jonah wanted God to judge and punish.

So Jonah's great struggle leads to Jonah's great resistance. What Jonah wanted was God to lead with truth and justice, and what God wanted to do was to lead with His compassion and mercy. And the question is what happens when there is someone in our lives that is an enemy? Do we lead with mercy and compassion or do we want to lead

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with justice and punishment? I said this last week and I am going to say it every week, I believe this is so important for us as people who follow Jesus, people who identify as Jesus' followers, as Christians, if we want to set ourselves apart in the world today, if we want to distinguish ourselves it is not going to be by, 'Well they go to church,' or 'They do this,' or 'They volunteer all the time.'

Listen, there are a lot of people that volunteer, there are a lot of people that go to church, there are a lot of people who do good things. But one of the ways that is a hallmark of a follower of Jesus is someone who knows how to love their enemies. They know how to love people that they may not even like. So how do we do that? That is one of the great struggles of humanity. And Jesus didn't just teach it; He modeled it. And if we are going to be followers of Jesus, this is going to be one of the greatest challenges of our lives.

So that is why we are looking at Jonah. That is why we are going to look at Jonah's great resistance this morning. When God calls Jonah there are two major responses that he has. And we are going to look at the first one this week and then his next response next week. So let's look at Jonah Chapter 1 and we are going to read the entire chapter beginning in verse 1.

“Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. So the captain came and said to him, “What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise; call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us that we may not perish.

And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, “Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” And he said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

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Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you." Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. Therefore they called out to the Lord, "O Lord, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you." So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights."

This is the first part of Jonah's story that we are going to dig down into. We are going to be talking about Jonah's great resistance. The reason why I chose the word 'great' in every sermon in this series is because 'great' is a theme in this book. There is a great city, there are great winds, there is great fear, and there is a great fish, so there are a lot of great things going on. And one of the biggest greats' is Jonah's great resistance.

So God tells Jonah what He wants him to do, and He gives him a mission because Jonah was a prophet and prophets were to be responsible to tell people what God wanted them to know. But Jonah resists. Now I thought about the word 'rebellion' because rebellion is also a word that signifies what Jonah is doing here, but a lot of times when we think of the word 'rebellion' we think of someone who is really obstinate, someone who almost shakes their fist in someone's face and rebels. And I think the word 'resistance' can encompass rebellion, and it encompassed ways in which Jonah does things in ways we haven't thought of yet.

So as we see here Jonah rebels and Jonah resists in a lot of ways. So let's see what Jonah does in this passage. And the first way I want us to see Jonah's resistance is this – resistance can have momentum. Maybe you have looked at a map where Jonah was at the beginning of the book of Jonah. He is in the northern tribes of Israel. God tells Jonah that He wants him to go to Nineveh and Nineveh is northeast of Israel. And where Jonah goes is southwest. He goes in the opposite direction and he gets on a boat to Tarshish.

Now there are two main thoughts of where Tarshish was located. Some scholars think that Tarshish was either in Spain or Tarshish was in India. We don't really know where Tarshish was, but we do know that it was far away from where Nineveh was. So either Jonah was saying, 'Since Nineveh is northeast from me then I am going as far west as I can possibly can,' or Jonah was saying, 'Nineveh is in the east so I am going to go to the far east, as far east as I can go.' I don't know which way would be more rebellious but they would both be pretty bad. Both are saying, 'That is where you want me to go? Then I am doing the opposite of that.'

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Now notice how the author describes what is happening with Jonah. Look at verse 3 where it says: ***“But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish.”*** If you have a pen circle the word ‘down’ in your Bible. He went ‘down’ to Joppa and he found a ship going to Tarshish. Then the Scripture says: ***“So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.”*** So there is another ‘down’ to circle.

Now skip down to verse 5 where it says: ***“Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep.”*** Where had Jonah gone? He went ‘down’ into the inner part of the ship. Circle that third mention of down.

Notice what is happening. There is a fourth occasion of down even though he doesn’t use the word ‘down.’ It is where Jonah gets thrown ‘done’ into the sea. And here is my point. When we rebel against God, when He tells us to turn right and we turn left instead, when He tells us to speak up and we stay silent, whatever it is that God tells us to do and we do the opposite, here is what we need to understand. We might decide we are going to take one step away from God in this direction, but what happens with that one step is it leads to another step. The moment we take one step away from God, I guarantee you it is going to be easier to take two steps. And when you take two steps we will eventually take three steps away from God. And if you take three steps away from God it becomes easier to take more steps away.

See what happens? Resistance has momentum. It is easy when you are just taking one step. *‘Hey, I am going to start eating healthy.’* I had Covid and after being in bed for ten weeks I was making all these vows before the Lord. *‘I am going to eat healthy for the rest of my life.’* And then I found myself this week sticking my hand into a bag of Hershey Nuggets. And I said to myself, *‘I am only going to have two.’* Then a while later I said, *‘Well, maybe three would be okay.’* And then after that third one there was no stopping.

This is what happens. We have a great idea or a great plan but momentum is powerful. And when we do something that is compromise like saying, *‘I am not going to go in that direction, God. I am going in this direction.’* What happens is we can fool ourselves into thinking we can just be a little bit away from God and what happens is our rebellion carries momentum with it. I promise you this, when Jonah woke up that morning and said, *‘I’m going to Joppa, I know there are boats there,’* he had a plan. He was going to get on that boat and go in the opposite direction. And I don’t really believe he thought to himself that he would get thrown into the sea or that he would want to die.

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But that is what happens. The first decision was he was going to go to Joppa. The eventually he got to the point that when the storm was raging and the sailors were asking him what to do because they thought the gods were doing it that they asked him how to fix it. And Jonah said, *'Throw me overboard.'* I said this last week and I will say it again, Jonah was at the point where he didn't think there was going to be a big fish waiting for him; he had no idea of that. What Jonah knew was that he would rather die than do what God wanted him to do.

See what happens? The moment Jonah decided to go to Joppa he wasn't thinking that he was going to die. But he eventually got to that point. He went down, then he went down again, and then he really went down. And the idea of momentum is something we have to be aware of. Every one of us in this room this morning in some way there is a momentum to our walk with Jesus. We are either walking toward Him or we are walking away from Him. But not one person in this room is static. Not one person is saying, *'Well, I am just going to stay right here because it is kind of comfortable for me,'* because that is not how it happens, that is not how it works. There are all kinds of things that are working in us and around us that are calling us to God or calling us away from God.

What I love about this is that God interacts with Jonah to stop his momentum. He sends a fish to swallow him and stop the momentum. And sometimes God does that. It doesn't matter what trajectory you are on, it doesn't matter where momentum is leading you today, I can promise you that God is going to work to stop the momentum in the wrong direction.

I love watching basketball and it is one of my favorite sports to watch. You know when you watch a good basketball game you will see teams going back and forth and you will see them going on runs. What that means is you will have one team that scores a lot like on a 10 to 2 run or a 15 to 5 run. And what happens is one team is getting hotter, they are making more shots and the flow of the game is just in their favor. And a good head coach of a basketball team will notice it because he has his finger on the pulse of the game and many times when he sees a run happening against his team, the momentum is working against his team, he will call a time out. And he will take 30 seconds or a minute to talk to his guys and hopefully his team will get their feet under them again and the other team will cool off.

And sometimes God does that with us. He calls a time out and He gives us time to stop the momentum of where we are going. Listen, resistance has momentum. Don't fool yourself into thinking that we can reject what God wants from us and we can still kind of be in the same area with God. That is not what happened to Jonah and that is not what happens with us.

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The second thing that we can learn about resistance is that resistance can be passive. Notice there is a lot of communication going on in this chapter. God is talking to Jonah, the captain of the ship is talking to Jonah, the sailors talk to Jonah, and Jonah talks to the captain and the sailors. And also the sailors, the mariners, the people on the ship talk to God. Did you notice the one way of communication that is not mentioned in this chapter? You don't see Jonah talking to God. Jonah is not talking to God at all.

In fact we need to understand in verse 6 where they were at that time. The reputation of sailors is that they are not moral and they are not religious. And this is the humor of this story. The captain of this ship goes down to Jonah who is sleeping and he says, '*You need to cry out to your god.*' These mariners, these sea people, they are crying out to God because this storm is so bad and this is what these men do for a living. And people who live on boats are not scared of most storms. It is kind of like if you fly a lot and your plane hits turbulence it probably doesn't bother you very much. But have you ever sat next to someone who is flying and you hit turbulence? They will probably say something like, '*What was that???*' And you are thinking they just need to chill out. It is air travel and they need to get used to it.

But there are different levels of turbulence. There have been times where I have been on a plane and I thought, '*Wow, this is pretty bad.*' But I feel like I am okay as long as I look at the flight attendants and if they aren't freaked out then I know I don't have to be freaked out. But the moment I see a flight attendant freaking out then I know it is bad because this is what they do for a living. So if you see them go strap themselves in their seats and they look like they are scared then I am definitely going to be scared.

Notice what Jonah is doing? He is just sleeping. The actual Hebrew terminology of this means he is in a deep sleep. There are only two other times in the Old Testament where it mentions people being in a deep sleep. One is when God puts Adam in a sleep in order to create Eve. And the other time is when God puts Abraham to sleep and He makes a covenant with him. It is interesting how those two moments of being in deep sleep were induced by God while this moment of deep sleep is induced by Jonah. He is just conked out. And whether it is a plane in the air, or in a ship on the sea most of us do not do well when our bodies are in motion in either of those areas.

Yet Jonah is deeply asleep away from the presence of the Lord. He doesn't want to hear from God. In fact this idea of the presence of the Lord is this idea of looking at God's face. And Jonah doesn't want to look into God's face and he doesn't want to have a conversation with Him. Jonah didn't like what God asked him to do so he is trying to be separate from God.

And some of us when God tells us to do something we are not going to think, '*Oh yeah God, I am going to do what I want.*' No, we are not going to do that, but we are just not going to do what He wants us to do. And Jonah was fleeing from the presence of the

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Lord. He would rather fall asleep and pretend that God wasn't there. He wanted to just close his eyes and not look at His face. And that is what we can do because resistance can be passive at times.

We see this with children. If you remember ever disciplining or correcting a child you usually try to get down on their level. And many times they may not be throwing a tantrum, but sometimes it helps to hold their face in your hands and tell them to look at you. And some kids will turn their eyes aside or they may just close their eyes entirely. They know you are holding their face so they can't turn their head but they can still keep from looking directly at you. And that is what Jonah is doing here. And it is also what we do.

And God has to get our attention. He wants us to talk to Him, but many times we will try to avoid looking at Him, or we will just go to sleep. The irony, the humor of this story is found in verse 14 where it says: ***“Therefore they called out to the Lord, “O Lord, let us not perish for this man’s life, and lay not on us innocent blood.”*** This is the pagan sailors who are praying to God but notice that Jonah doesn't. The prophet of the Lord is remaining silent and the pagan sailors are crying out to the Lord. This is the irony and the humor of this story.

Jonah is still not willing to do it. In fact Jonah's resistance is still very strong. Look again at verse 17 where it takes Jonah being swallowed by a great fish: ***“And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah.”*** Now we don't know what kind of fish this was. We don't know if it was a whale or just a great fish of some kind. But here is what is so interesting. There are possibly two fish in this story. Now I know we are all familiar with the story of Jonah and the whale or Jonah and the great fish. But there is something fascinating about this if we read the Hebrew which was the language it was written in.

Verse 17 says the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. The Hebrew word for 'fish' is *dag*. If you look at Chapter 2 and verse 1 it says: ***“Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish.”*** Do you know the Hebrew word there? It is *daga*. *Dag* is a male fish and *daga* is a female fish. Now this is a mystery and I am not saying I know all the answers right here because there are a lot of theories on what it means. But there is something called the Midrash and the Midrash has been around for hundreds of years. Many Hebrew Rabbis' have spent their lives studying Scripture and have contributed to the Midrash which is kind of like a Jewish commentary on the Old Testament.

And there is a theory that I found very fascinating that is in the Midrash. That theory is that when Jonah got swallowed by the great fish in verse 17, the male fish, it was bigger inside. And Jonah still wasn't talking to God. So after three days and nights the big fish spit out Jonah and he was swallowed by a female fish that was pregnant

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where there was very little room for Jonah. So while Jonah was in the big fish and it was gross and smelly at least he was able to move around, and now all of a sudden he is in the female fish in a small cramped space. And finally at that time Jonah was ready to talk to God.

Now I don't know if that is what happened or not, but there are two words in the Hebrew that were used and that was *dag* for male fish and *daga* for female fish. All I know for sure is that when Jonah was in the belly of the *daga* that he cries out to the Lord. It took him that long. Why did it take him so long? What is it about us that we just don't want to look in God's face? Why don't we want to make eye contact? Why don't we want to talk to Him? Why do we do that?

I believe maybe it is because some of us don't like what God is doing. We know that God loves us so we can hurt and grieve Him by our actions, and that is why sometimes we just want to get back at Him. We don't like what He has done and we know He doesn't like it when we rebel or walk away, and we know it hurts Him when we don't talk to Him, but we are just not going to talk to Him. Maybe that is it. Or maybe it is the fact that we know the moment we have that conversation with Him we are going to lose the conversation because none of us have a conversation with God and come away again feeling like, '*Yeah, I showed Him.*'

No, at the end of any of those kinds of conversations I have had with God I realize that He is right and I shouldn't have done that. '*You are right; I should not have done that.*' Or maybe it is just our pride that is keeping us from having that '*You are right, God; I was wrong,*' conversation. Or it could be shame or guilt. I don't know what the reason is, but there is something inside of us that even when God is holding our chin gently and trying to get us to look at Him we are looking everywhere but at Him, or we may even be closing our eyes.

So resistance can have momentum and resistance can be passive and lastly resistance can be internal. What do I mean by resistance being internal? Well Jonah finally comes to a turning point. He gets swallowed by a fish and at some moment inside of this fish he turns to the Lord. In Chapter 2 and verse 3 it says: "***Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, saying, "I called out to the Lord, out of my distress and He answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, (Sheol is the place of death), and you heard my voice. For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. Then I said 'I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple."***

So Jonah was at that moment feeling emotionally dead because he believed he was going to die. And when he says he is going to look upon God's holy temple he was saying that he was going to die and be in God's presence. Look in verse 5 where it says:

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“The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God. When my life was fainting away, I remembered the Lord, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.”

This is the moment where Jonah breaks. This is the moment where God is pursuing Jonah and Jonah is finally saying, ‘*Okay. I am crying out to you, O Lord. I was wrong. You have been good to me and I don’t want to die anymore.*’ Listen to verse 8: *“Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the Lord! And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.”*

So Jonah has this moment with God and he finally breaks. Instead of the momentum of going down, he starts going up. Instead of being silent he cries out. And here is where we have to be very careful. Jonah does have a moment with God, and there is this moment where he does turn, where he thanks God for his salvation. ‘*I don’t want to die anymore, God. I don’t want to drown. This is not how I want my life to end.*’ And God rescues him after Jonah turns.

But here is something that we find really interesting. Why was Jonah saved? Jonah was saved because of God’s compassion and His mercy. What was the one thing that Jonah had a problem with? It was God’s compassion and His mercy. For us when we receive the mercy and compassion of God that seems so good to us. We are thankful for it. We realized we were heading the wrong direction and He rescued us. We were ignoring Him but He called us. We were so thankful to God for saving our souls. And in this moment Jonah was grateful, and he began to sing and praise God. He was restored to God, but it still did not change his opinion of the Ninevites.

What can happen is when we receive the mercy and the grace of God we can say it is good, but for us to look at our enemies and say we want them to receive mercy and grace is hard. We know this was true of Jonah because in the next chapter Jonah has a major problem with God after He showed the people of Nineveh compassion and mercy. Jonah himself was the recipient of mercy and compassion, but he still had a problem with it being given to others. See the danger. His resistance was internal.

Listen we can come to church, we can sing songs of praise for God’s love for us, but God, we just can’t seem to love our enemies. We love God’s great love for us; we just have trouble showing that great love to our enemies. If we are going to be people who love our enemies, the mercy and the compassion that we have received must transfer horizontally to those around us.

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So this is Jonah's predicament. He is going to do the right thing. He is going to say the right thing. He has cried out to God and now he is going to go to Nineveh and preach sermons to them. There is going to be a revival. So Jonah is going to see and do and say all the right things, but internally he still doesn't like it. And we can receive grace and mercy, we can go all through the motions of obedience externally, but internally we may still be resisting God at some level. And that is another great danger.

Now what is the main point of this? Listen, the main point could be that we should not resist God. That is the logical conclusion to this sermon. *'Hey listen, don't resist God like Jonah did. Jonah was bad and he did some bad things so don't be like him and resist God.'* But that is not the main point. In fact I don't believe we are supposed to look at this passage and really fix our eyes on Jonah because the major character in this story is God. See my main point is not that we shouldn't resist God because we are all going to resist Him at times. What the main point is our resistance should not repel God.

When we resist against God, whether it is active rebellion when He tells you to go in this direction and you decide to go in the opposite direction, which is out and out rebellion. Or whether it is passive rebellion when we just sit there and say nothing, and we fill our lives with our jobs, relationships, social media, video games, sports or whatever, and we will not talk to Him. But what we see here is a God who doesn't let Jonah go. If you or I were God and we asked Jonah to do this, and Jonah went in the opposite direction, we would not be happy about it.

As a dad I see this. I can tell my kids to do something and they don't do it so you know what I do? I ask the next kid who walks by to do it. So why didn't God ask another prophet besides Jonah? There were other prophets around at that time. *'Okay, Jonah is out. He is a little grumpy today and I am not going to use him for this mission. So Hosea I have a job for you.'* No, God tells Jonah to do it and He wants a conversation with him, but Jonah doesn't want to have a conversation with God. But they eventually would have that conversation.

Our resistance doesn't repel God. When Jonah ran from God, God ran after him. When Jonah ignored God, God still reached out to him. When Jonah gives up, God rescues him. God is patient with us. He is patient, loving, kind compassionate and merciful. And our evil does not repel Him. We know this because of Jesus. There was the darkness of sin, the brokenness of this world and still God sent His Son to earth and our sin did not repel Him because He died for our sins to redeem us.

And as much as our resistance doesn't repel God, our enemies' resistance, our enemies' evil doesn't repel God either. And if our enemies' resistance and evil does not repel God it should not repel us either. God can look at our enemies, the people who have hurt us and wronged us, leaving deep emotional wounds in us and He is not

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repelled. And if their evil allows us to be repelled in any way we are not responding to them in the way that God has responded to us.

I don't want us to leave here thinking we are not to just try and resist God this week even though that is great and that is really important. But what I want us to do is walk out of here this morning saying, *'We have a great God in heaven and earth, and no matter how many times we do walk away from Him He is still walking toward us. And because of that I want to go toward Him and I want to go toward those people who do repel me.'* That is what I want us to leave here thinking about today.

So a couple of application questions and then we are done. Number one – as we finish our talk, what does your resistance look like? Are you a passive resister? You may not be rebellious but you are just not going to do anything. Or is your resistance out and out momentum to going one way and God is calling you to turn around? Or is your resistance one in which you are doing all the right things like coming to church, going to Bible studies, singing songs, reading your Bible, but you do not love your enemies? *'God, thank you for saving me and I am content with that, but don't ask me for anything.'* What does your resistance look like?

Number two – how is God getting your attention right now? He sent a storm and pagan sailors to Jonah. I can't imagine Jonah sleeping there and being wakened by a pagan captain telling him to talk to God. He would have been like, *'God, are you really using this guy to ask me to have a conversation with you? Seriously?'* God may take the biggest pagan in your life to say something to you that is exactly what God would say to you. Or maybe He will use a fish. Whatever God is using to get your attention, are you listening? Are you willing to submit?

And the last question is this – will you fully return to God and stop resisting? God wants you close. In order for us to love our enemies we have to experience the love of God in such a way that it is like Jesus' love for us. That is the only way we are going to be able to love horizontally in ways that are beyond our human natural abilities. But this is what the world needs to see. And this is our opportunity today. Where are you in your resistance to God? And where are you in your obedience to God? No matter how much we do resist it won't repel Him.

The preceding transcript was completed using raw audio recordings. As much as possible, it includes the actual words of the message with minor grammatical changes and editorial clarifications to provide context. Hebrew and Greek words are spelled using Google Translator and the actual spelling may be different in some cases.