

## Resisting God's grace

Jonah 1:1-3

- I. God's compassionate love for unbelievers:  
God called Jonah to preach at Nineveh (Jonah 1:1-2).
  - A. God called Jonah from a ministry to God's people to reach unbelieving pagans (1:1; 2 Kings 14:35).
    - Jonah prophesied during a rare season of prosperity in northern Israel (8<sup>th</sup> century BC – 2 Kings 14:35).
    - Assyria (Nineveh), Israel's enemy, had been suffering defeats.
  - B. God told Jonah to take the message of God's judgment and grace to Nineveh, the Assyrian capital (1:2).
    - Jonah recognized God's compassion on Assyria and didn't want them to repent (Jonah 4:1-3).
  
- II. God's omnipresent work within believers:  
Jonah tried to flee from God to Tarshish (Jonah 1:3).
  - A. Jonah tried to "run away from the Lord" by boarding a ship in Joppa headed to Tarshish (1:3).
    - Jonah attempted the impossible task of escaping from God's omnipresence (Psalm 139:7-10; Jeremiah 23:23-24).
  - B. Jonah thought he could escape God's will by leaving God's people and his ministry as a prophet.

Principle: God's first task in reaching unbelievers is to address the hearts of believers (2 Peter 3:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20).