

# *No Limit*

## Man Overboard Series – Part 1

Scripture text – Jonah 1:1-3

### Introduction

- The most important thing about the book of Jonah is what it tells us about \_\_\_\_\_.
- AW Tozer: “*What comes into your mind when you think about God is the most \_\_\_\_\_ thing about you.*”

### Thanks, but No Thanks

- Instead of going to Nineveh (650 miles to the northeast), Jonah set out for \_\_\_\_\_ (2,200 miles to the northwest).
- Before we judge Jonah too harshly:
  1. Nineveh (modern day Mosul, Iraq) was the capitol of the \_\_\_\_\_ empire. This empire ruled the Middle East for \_\_\_\_\_ years and, at the time of Jonah, was at the pinnacle of its \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. The Assyrians were unique in their \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_. They took delight in their barbaric behavior and kept detailed \_\_\_\_\_ of their atrocities.
- It’s understandable Jonah wouldn’t want to go to Nineveh, and yet he would have the pleasure of proclaiming God’s impending \_\_\_\_\_. Not a bad assignment!
- However, Jonah rightly reasoned that preaching “against” Nineveh implied a willingness on God’s part to \_\_\_\_\_ them if they \_\_\_\_\_.
- For the Assyrians, Jonah wanted \_\_\_\_\_ from God.

### Level 1

- At one level, Jonah was simply rebelling against a \_\_\_\_\_ assignment. He perceived it as a lose-lose proposition. We can relate to this.
- It’s \_\_\_\_\_ to struggle with a difficult assignment from God. There’s nothing remarkable about that.

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- What's remarkable is that God is \_\_\_\_\_ with us and relentlessly \_\_\_\_\_ us until we finally experience the joy & \_\_\_\_\_ of obedience.
- Consider: Does God have an assignment for you right now? If so, don't count on him letting it \_\_\_\_\_.

## Level 2

- But there's something even deeper going on; namely, Jonah was "rebellious" against a side of \_\_\_\_\_ he didn't \_\_\_\_\_.
- What he didn't like was the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ nature of God's mercy.
- He knew God to be "gracious and compassionate" (Jonah 4:2), but this was a \_\_\_\_\_ too far. There has to be a \_\_\_\_\_ to what God is willing to \_\_\_\_\_!

## How this Relates to Us

1. Perhaps you believe you are \_\_\_\_\_ God's forgiveness. Deep-down, you're \_\_\_\_\_ of yourself and you're \_\_\_\_\_ from God.
  - One way we hide from God is through our \_\_\_\_\_ practices.
  - A simple truth: If God's mercy is available & sufficient for the Assyrians, it is available & sufficient for \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Perhaps you do not appreciate how \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ God's mercy must be to \_\_\_\_\_ you.
  - Some believe they only need a \_\_\_\_\_ mercy. This thinking is diabolical.
  - One could argue that our sin is \_\_\_\_\_ than the Assyrians because we know \_\_\_\_\_.

It should be clear today who the \_\_\_\_\_ is.  
It is God.

## Questions

1. Under "how this relates to us," which one most applies to you?
2. Does God have an assignment for you? What is it?