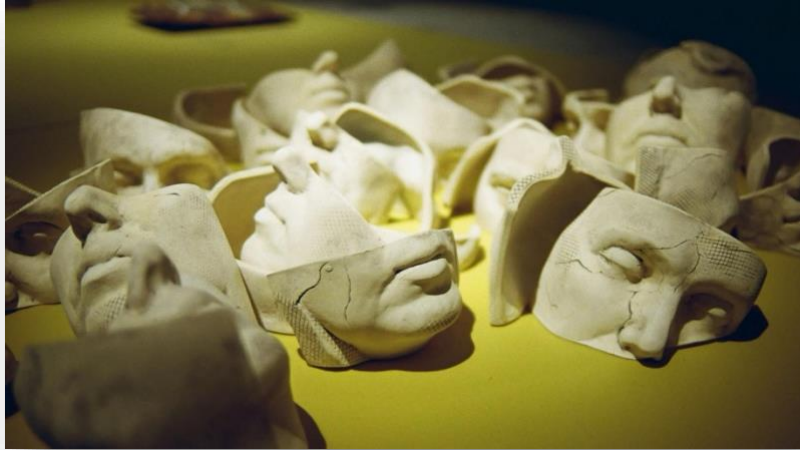


060924

On the Run

Jonah 1:1-12

Eugene Kwon



Background

In this age of superficial connection, people long for depth more than ever. The ceaseless torrent of notifications, texts, messages, pings, and requests leaves us feeling relationally parched for more than shallow encounters. But have we plumbed our own depths? Do we know what lies under the surface of the self we present to the world? And can a rebellious, disobedient prophet show us how to dive in? Join us this Sunday as we begin a new miniseries - *Jonah: Under the Surface!*

Sermon Text: *Jonah 1:1-12 (NASB)*

1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and cry out against it, because their wickedness has come up before Me." 3 But Jonah got up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship that was going to Tarshish, paid the fare, and boarded it to go with them to Tarshish away from the presence of the LORD.

4 However, the LORD hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea, so that the ship was about to break up. 5 Then the sailors became afraid and every man cried out to his god, and they hurled the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone below into the stern of the ship, had lain down, and fallen sound asleep. 6 So the captain approached him and said, "How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps your god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish."

7 And each man said to his mate, "Come, let's cast lots so that we may find out on whose account this catastrophe has struck us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 Then they said to him, "Tell us, now! On whose account has this catastrophe struck us? What is your

occupation, and where do you come from? What is your country, and from what people are you?" 9 So he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land."

10 Then the men became extremely afraid, and they said to him, "How could you do this?" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. 11 So they said to him, "What should we do to you so that the sea will become calm for us?"—for the sea was becoming increasingly stormy. 12 And he said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea. Then the sea will become calm for you, because I know that on account of me this great storm has come upon you."

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?

2. Sunday questions (pick 3?)

- a. What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- c. Eugene began his sermon – tongue in cheek – saying he hated Jonah. 😊 What is your view of the character Jonah as we begin this study in his book? Explain.
 - Along with this, what are your hopes for this short study through Jonah?
- d. Respond to this statement from Eugene:

"There is no mask the Lord cannot see through. There is no false self that His gaze does not penetrate. He sees all of us, even what we fear to look upon, and He does not flinch. He does not turn away. He holds His gaze on us. He holds us... And, He knows and He forgives and He accepts and eventually He heals and He transforms."
- e. Where in your life have you fled from God (in the same way as Jonah)? Can you explain why you did it? Possible answers may include "disconnected from God, disconnected from others or disconnected from self"?
- f. Can you name the mask you typically wear in order to feel safe and secure? Another way to ask this is - what do you want to present of yourself to others and to God, so that we might feel safe and secure and supplied and connected?
- g. Make the Psalm 139 prayer your prayer this week:

23 *Search me, God, and know my heart;
 test me and know my anxious thoughts.*

24 *See if there is any offensive way in me,
 and lead me in the way everlasting.*