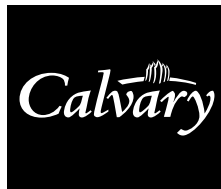


**THE VERDICT**  
WITH PASTOR JOHN H. MUNRO

THE BOOK OF  
**JONAH**

THE VERDICT TEACHING SERIES

WHO THEN IS THIS, THAT EVEN THE WIND  
AND THE SEA OBEY HIM? — MARK 4:41



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CALVARY CHURCH

5801 Pineville–Matthews Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28226  
704.543.1200 | [info@calvarychurch.com](mailto:info@calvarychurch.com) | [calvarychurch.com](http://calvarychurch.com)

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# **THE VERDICT**

WITH PASTOR JOHN H. MUNRO

## ***Thank you for listening to The Verdict***

*We hope you find this listening guide helpful as you follow along with Pastor John Munro in his teaching series and continue your study in God's Word.*

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**S A WEE BOY, I WAS FASCINATED**

and intrigued by the story of a man being swallowed by a big fish and living to tell the story! But the book of Jonah is not just a fantastic story. The life of Jonah teaches us important truths about God, His purposes, and the attitudes of our hearts.

Fear and selfish desires can be powerful forces in our lives, often preventing us from humbly obeying the Lord. But God still loves us and watches over us, even when we are disobedient. And nothing can thwart the sovereign purposes of our Almighty God!

Join me as we go on this intriguing journey and meet Jonah, the runaway prophet. As always, the verdict is yours!

Warmly in Christ,



Pastor John H. Munro

MESSAGE 1

## Running from God

Jonah 1:1–3

### JONAH FLEES THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, <sup>2</sup> “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” <sup>3</sup> 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. — Jonah 1:1–3

**PEOPLE OFTEN RIDICULE** the book of Jonah, but it is part of Holy Scripture and provides many valuable and relevant lessons.

#### God’s will is revealed to Jonah.

- Jonah was a prophet living in the 8th century B.C.
- God gave Jonah a clear command to preach against Nineveh.

#### God’s will is disobeyed by Jonah.

- Jonah becomes a prophet on the run.
- Jonah fears that God will use him to help Israel’s enemies.

#### Four Lessons on God’s Will

- Every step out of God’s will is a step downward.
- God reveals His will to the humble and willing heart.
- God’s will is found in God’s Word.
- Doing the will of God is costly.

## QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

What was God's command to Jonah?

Why did Jonah disobey God's will? What did he think would be the outcome of his preaching at Nineveh?

Why is *our will* often the problem?

## THE VERDICT IS YOURS

Are you running from God in any area of your life? Are there situations where you are trying to ignore God's Word and will?

MESSAGE 2

## Lost at Sea

*Jonah 1:4–17*

### A GREAT FISH SWALLOWS JONAH

*So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. <sup>16</sup> Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.*

*<sup>17</sup> 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. — Jonah 1:15–17*

**DO YOU REALLY SEEK TO DO GOD'S WILL**, or are you simply going through the motions of the Christian life, seeking to do things your way?

**When you are out of God's will, there are always consequences.**

- Jonah's disobedience had consequences.
- Initially, Jonah was unaware of the consequences of his disobedience.
- Jonah's disobedience resulted in a waste of time, hardship, and suffering.

**When you are out of God's will, your sin affects not only yourself but others.**

- The pagan sailors also experienced the storm.
- You may sin in secret, but your sin will eventually impact many areas of your life.

**When you are out of God's will, God will discipline you.**

- Jonah experienced a supernatural storm and an unexpected swim.
- God still disciplines His disobedient children.

## **QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW**

Why is it significant that Jonah was asleep aboard the ship? What does this tell us?

How were the sailors affected by Jonah's disobedience? Why is their response better than Jonah's?

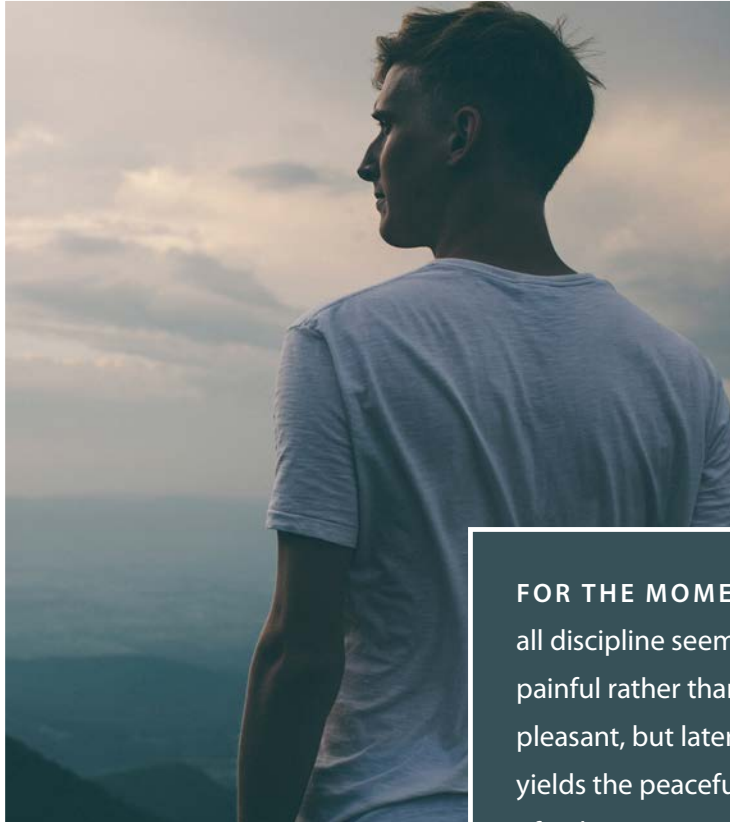
How do we see the sovereignty of God displayed? Why can we be encouraged by His pursuit of Jonah?

How is the discipline of God an act of His love and mercy?

## **THE VERDICT IS YOURS**

Are you spiritually asleep, or are you alert? Do you need a storm from God to get your attention?





**FOR THE MOMENT**  
all discipline seems  
painful rather than  
pleasant, but later it  
yields the peaceful fruit  
of righteousness to those  
who have been trained  
by it. — *Hebrews 12:11*

MESSAGE 3

## A Whale of a Tale

*Jonah 2*

### JONAH'S PRAYER

*Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish,<sup>2</sup> saying,*

*"I called out to the Lord, out of my distress,*

*and he answered me;*

*out of the belly of Sheol I cried,*

*and you heard my voice. — Jonah 2:1–2*

**IT MAY BE TEMPTING TO FOCUS** on the big fish, but this is a story of supernatural deliverance. Focus on the size and sovereignty of our God!

### Jonah's problem

- Jonah was in distress.
- Recognize your problem.

### Jonah's prayer

- Jonah prayed to the Lord his God.
- In your distress, cry out to the Lord.

### Jonah's preservation

- The Lord answered Jonah.
- Salvation is of the Lord.

### Jonah's praise

- Jonah 2 is a declarative psalm of praise.

## **QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW**

When Jonah finds himself in this dire situation, what does he do? What does this tell you about what you must do before God can bless you and help you?

What is the Lord's response? What does this tell us about the nature of salvation?

Why is praise such a significant part of Jonah's prayer?

## **THE VERDICT IS YOURS**

In times of distress, do you look to the Lord for help? Or do you look for someone to blame or try to solve the problem yourself?

We often gravitate to the negative and focus on our adverse circumstances. Is praise a regular part of your life?

MESSAGE 4

## A Second Chance

*Jonah 3*

### JONAH GOES TO NINEVEH

*Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. — Jonah 3:1–3*

**WE MAY OFTEN DESPAIR** about spiritually “blowing it” time and time again. But we see God’s grace and compassion in the lives of Jonah and the Ninevites.

#### **God is gracious and compassionate to His disobedient servant.**

- God graciously gives Jonah a second chance.
- God has been gracious to you in your disobedience.

#### **God is gracious and compassionate to wicked pagans.**

- The Ninevites were a wicked and violent people.
- God showed grace and compassion to the pagans.

#### **Four Lessons**

- God gives disobedient servants another chance.
- One person obeying God in impossible situations can accomplish incredible things.
- Don’t write people off.
- Those who experience God’s grace and compassion are transformed.

## **QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW**

How does God give Jonah a second chance?

What does it mean that God is “lavish” in His grace and His forgiveness? How do we see this in our lives?

How do the Ninevites receive Jonah’s preaching? Why is this surprising?

## **THE VERDICT IS YOURS**

Have you experienced the grace and compassion of God in your life? Have you repented of your sin and seen God use you in the lives of others?

Is there anyone in your life that you have written off? Has God’s love and forgiveness changed your view?

FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD,  
AND ARE JUSTIFIED BY HIS GRACE AS A GIFT, THROUGH THE  
REDEMPTION THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS. — ROMANS 3:23-24



MESSAGE 5

## A Man with an Attitude

*Jonah 4*

### JONAH'S ANGER & THE LORD'S COMPASSION

*But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry.<sup>2</sup> And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.<sup>3</sup> Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."<sup>4</sup> And the Lord said, "Do you do well to be angry?" — Jonah 4:1–4*

**DESPITE JONAH'S REPENTANCE** and obedience to God, the book of Jonah does not end with the salvation of the Ninevites. Like us, Jonah continues to struggle with ungodly attitudes and emotions.

#### **Jonah has several bad attitudes.**

- Jonah is angry with God.
- Jonah is narrow-minded.
- Jonah is discouraged.
- Jonah is full of self-pity.

#### **A godly perspective dispels bad attitudes.**

- The perspective of *God's sovereign purposes*
- The perspective that *God doesn't abandon us* in our selfish attitudes
- The perspective of *a godly value system*

## **QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW**

Why is Jonah angry?

What do Jonah's bad attitudes remind us about those who serve God?

How does recognizing God's sovereignty change our perspective?

How does Jonah's compassion for the plant expose his ungodly priorities? What do your actions (and reactions) tell you about your priorities?

## **THE VERDICT IS YOURS**

Are you angry with God for some reason? Do you allow discouragement sometimes to derail you? What is God teaching you?

Despite his sinfulness, Jonah was changed by God's grace. Have you trusted God and received His forgiveness?



# Do you know Jesus Christ?

**W**ITHOUT OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, the unique and perfect Son of God, we cannot have a personal relationship with the living God. Without Jesus, we are without purpose, without hope, without joy, and without peace. His great love compelled Him to die for your sins in God's plan of salvation. His resurrection conquered fear and death!

## PLACE YOUR FAITH IN JESUS

Jesus is the only One who can save you and transform your life. Turn from your sins and place your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Experience the living hope and personal security that come from knowing Him.

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." — John 3:16*

*"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." — John 8:12*

*"Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." — Romans 10:9–10*

*"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand." — John 10:28*

## DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

Would you like to talk with a pastor or have someone pray with you or for you?

Contact us at [theverdict@calvarychurch.com](mailto:theverdict@calvarychurch.com).

# THE VERDICT

WITH PASTOR JOHN H. MUNRO

*"Where the Gospel is preached, the lives of men and women and boys and girls are transformed. Through His death and resurrection, Christ gives us peace with God, present power for living, and future hope for eternal life."* — PASTOR JOHN H. MUNRO



**The Verdict is a daily radio program** featuring the expository Bible teaching of Pastor John Munro.

Born and raised in Scotland, John graduated from the University of Edinburgh and practiced law in Scotland before God called him to full-time ministry. He and his wife, Gudny, moved to Texas, where he attended Dallas Theological Seminary.

For more than 30 years, John has dedicated his life to pastoral ministry, preaching and teaching the Word of God. He has served as Senior Pastor in Kalamazoo, MI, Pittsburgh, PA, and Halifax, Nova Scotia. Since February 2006, he has served as Senior Pastor at Calvary Church in Charlotte, NC.

**Each day on The Verdict, listeners are challenged** to turn to the Bible and render a "verdict" as they consider their personal response to the truth of God's Word. John Munro presents a clear examination of Scripture, offering insight and application for all backgrounds, from those unfamiliar with the Gospel to mature believers following Christ.

**To discover the many different ways to hear The Verdict**, including past programs, and how to partner with our ministry, go to [calvarychurch.com/theverdict](http://calvarychurch.com/theverdict).

*The Verdict is a media ministry of Calvary Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.  
At Calvary, our mission is to be and make authentic followers of Jesus Christ.*

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FOR THE WORD OF GOD AND FOR THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST

REVELATION 1:9