

Subtitle: How God's Empty can Transform your Empty

Introduction: Jesus Himself uses the picture of Jonah's story as an example of His death, burial and resurrection. **Matthew 12:38-42**

Text: **Jonah 1:1-17**

Jonah 2:1-2,9-10 Instead of drowning, Jonah was swallowed by a great fish, which God provided. In the belly of the whale, Jonah repented and cried out to God in prayer. He praised God, ending with the eerily prophetic statement, "Salvation comes from the Lord." (Jonah 2:9, [NIV](#))

Jonah 3:1-5

Outline:

- 1. Jonah was called to follow God's will and share a message with a Nation: Jonah refused and RAN from God!**
 - a. Have you ever ran from God? Are you running from God?**
 - b. When we take our lives into our own hands: mark my words. It will cost you. It will cost more than if you had given your life and your will over to God.**
- 2. Jesus was called by His Father to share the message of the Kingdom to the world. He completely obeyed. He even said: "Father, I want your will to be done, not mine." Luke 22:42b**
- 3. Jonah's rebellious and faithless trip brought storms not only to him, but to all on that boat with him.**
 - a. The other travelers were scared that they were going to die and believed that someone on board had brought this curse on them. Jonah admitted that it was him.**
 - b. Jonah told them he was running from God. Even these heathens ask him, why are you doing that? (Jonah 1:10)**
- 4. Jesus obeyed His Father and ran toward Him. He was not only blessed, but everyone around Him was blessed. His disciples were blessed and Jesus healed everyone He came in contact with that believed.**
- 5. Jonah was called to share the message of repentance and trust in God alone so that the nation of Nineveh would be saved.**
- 6. Jesus was called to share the message of the Kingdom and that He had come as the Messiah to bring eternal life to all who would ask for forgiveness and live for Him. This would lead to the whole World having access to salvation!**

Jonah did eventually preach → And that Generation of Ninevites were saved.

Jesus not only shared His message, He died for your sins so that you and everyone from every generation could be saved.

Are you Empty?

Let me share some things that are empty:

- **Your bank account sometimes is empty**
- **Your stomach is empty**
- **Religion is empty**
- **Your feelings of fulfillment are at times empty.**
- **You feel that life is empty and you think sometimes: Life stinks!**
- **Your Works to try to be a good person are empty. Nothing you do on your own can save you or prepare you for eternity. Only the finished work of Jesus on the cross can save you!**
 - **Baptism can't save you.**
 - **Saying an empty prayer at church can't save you. (explain)**
 - **Religious people: HEAR THIS: Self-righteous people will never have room for the Jesus of the Bible, in their heart.**
 - **The transformation of a Christian is not effortless nor perfect. But there will be a transformation in every true follower of Jesus.**
- **Your hobbies, your materialistic gain, your wealth, your promotion at work, your friendships are Empty. What do I mean? They are all going to pass away. Poof. Gone. They will bring no eternal or lasting fulfillment, purpose or gain.**
 - **Sinner: HEAR THIS: Someone who is intent on denying Jesus, running from Jesus, or failing to see Him for Who He really is thus living only for themselves to rule their own life will never have room for the Jesus of the Bible, in their heart.**
 - **But if you would do like Billions have before you: Turn from your doubt and sins. Recognize that you are a sinner who is in DESPERATE need of a Savior. Then God can right NOW transform your empty! So that everything that you are and have will have new purpose and life! Partnered with God, you can see the impossible become possible. You can for the first time find a fulfillment that LASTS!**
 - **Forgiveness does not just Empty you of sin and then leave you. Turning to God involves fullness as well. It involves not only separation from the emptiness of sin but also separation TO the fullness of God.**
 - **GOD WILL CHANGE YOUR DESTINY FROM HELL – TO HEAVEN!**