

OBEDIENCE IS ALWAYS THE BEST WAY TO GO

JONAH 1-2

Jonah provides **four reasons** why obedience to God's will is always the best way to go!

- **REASON #1: WHEN WE OBEY, WE PARTNER WITH GOD.**

The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: ²“Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

Jonah 1:1-2 (New International Version)

No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. 2 Timothy 2:4 (NIV)

“A soldier must be wholly at his commanding officer's disposal.”

“Obedience from the heart”: See Romans 6:17

- **REASON #2: DISOBEDIENCE ALWAYS DISTANCES US FROM GOD AND HIS PURPOSES.**

But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD. Jonah 1:3 (NIV)

“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” John 14:21 (NIV)

And when the Lord sent you to Kadesh Barnea, he said, “Go up and take possession of the land that I have given you.” But you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God. You did not trust him or obey him. Deuteronomy 9:23 (NIV)

- **REASON #3: DISOBEDIENCE MAY BRING GOD'S DISCIPLINE INTO OUR LIVES.**

Jonah . . . went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD. ⁴Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up . . . ⁷Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? . . .” ⁹He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD . . . ¹²“Pick me up and throw me into the sea . . . and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.” . . . ¹⁵Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. . . . ¹⁷But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 1:3-17 (NIV)

- **REASON #4: WE AVOID PAINFUL DETOURS.**

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. ²He said: “. . . From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry. ³You hurled me into . . . the very heart of the seas . . . ⁵The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head . . . [I hate it when that happens!] ⁷“When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple . . . ⁹But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed, I will make good . . .” ¹⁰And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land. ^{3:1}Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ²“Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.” ³Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Jonah 2:1-3:3a (NIV)

What gets us to the second chance for obedience? Repentance.

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Revelation 3:19 (NIV)

True repentance means being sorry for your sin, but also being willing to make a change.