

THE NECESSITY OF **! OBEDIENCE !** AND THE DANGER OF **RUNNING**

SERMON SERIES

The Necessity of Obedience and the Danger of Running - pt 3

"Going God's Way"

(Jonah 3:1-10)

Sunday, May 3, 2026

5-Day Devotional: The Beauty of Second Chances

Day 1: The God Who Speaks Again

Reading: Jonah 3:1-3

Devotional: "Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time." These eight words contain the entire gospel. Our God is the God of second chances—and third, and fourth. When we fail, run, or disobey, He doesn't write us off. Instead, He pursues us through our darkness and restores us to purpose. Jonah had completely failed his prophetic calling, yet God didn't demote him or give him something smaller to prove himself. He gave him the exact same assignment. Today, reflect on areas where you've told God "no." What would happen if you believed that God's faithfulness is greater than your failure? His restoration isn't just about forgiveness—it's about returning you to your divine purpose.

Day 2: From Darkness to Light

Reading: Psalm 23

Devotional: "He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake." The Hebrew word for "restores" means to repair, renovate, or return to a former condition. Whether your darkness is self-inflicted or caused by external circumstances, God desires to bring you back to alignment with His character. David wrote this psalm during a dark season, yet he understood that God's restoration is complete. You don't have to stay in the belly of the fish. You don't have to remain in the storm. When you cry out to God from your lowest point, He doesn't just pull you out—He restores you to righteousness, to wholeness, to the person He created you to be.

Day 3: The Ripple Effect of Obedience

Reading: Jonah 3:4-10

Devotional: One man's obedience sparked a citywide revival. When Jonah finally said yes to God, entire populations were transformed—from common people to nobles to the king himself. Our moments of obedience are interlocked with God's greater narrative of redemption. That seemingly small "yes" you give to God today could create ripples you'll never fully see. The person you pray with, the conversation you have, the invitation you extend—these aren't minor acts. They're participation in God's sweeping movement across the earth. What if we stopped saying "no" so much and started saying "yes"? What revival might God bring through your obedience? Your yes doesn't control the results, but it releases God's exponential power.

Day 4: Living as Obedient Children

Reading: 1 Peter 1:14-16

Devotional: "Live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways." Obedience to God isn't blind compliance—it's passionate response to His invitation. We never outgrow our need to be His obedient children. There's beauty, shelter, safety, and provision in obedience. When we say yes to God, we're not losing freedom; we're gaining alignment with the One who knows us best. The Ninevites, who had never known God, responded immediately to His message. Yet Jonah, who served God his whole life, was reluctant. Don't let familiarity breed complacency. Every interaction with God is the most important interaction. Each moment He speaks deserves our wholehearted, passionate yes.

Day 5: Qualified by Restoration

Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Devotional: Jonah became more qualified to minister after his failure and restoration than before. Why? Because he could now say to the broken people of Nineveh: "I understand darkness. I've run from God. I've been in the storm, the sea, the belly of the fish—and God restored me. He can restore you too." Your brokenness, when surrendered to God, becomes your greatest credential for ministry. The comfort you've received becomes comfort you can offer others. You know God because someone said yes to His leading in your life. Now others will know God because you say yes. Your past failures don't disqualify you—God's restoration requalifies you for greater impact than you ever imagined.