



August 18 – Trips Gone Awry...Don't miss the Attractions!

Ever taken a trip where you're headed to a destination, and you don't really care about the scenery passing by? You just want to get there! Or you're so intent on seeing this or that, you miss what's right in front of you? We often hear about Jonah's trip with the fish but join us this week as we take a look at how easy it is to miss the amazing if we're not paying attention!

Scripture:

Jonah 3:6-4:4 When the king of Nineveh heard what Jonah was saying, he stepped down from his throne and took off his royal robes. He dressed himself in burlap and sat on a heap of ashes. ⁷ Then the king and his nobles sent this decree throughout the city: "No one, not even the animals from your herds and flocks, may eat or drink anything at all. ⁸ People and animals alike must wear garments of mourning, and everyone must pray earnestly to God. They must turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence. ⁹ Who can tell? Perhaps even yet God will change his mind and hold back his fierce anger from destroying us." ¹⁰ When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened.

This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. ² So he complained to the Lord about it: "Didn't I say before I left home that you would do this, Lord? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people. ³ Just kill me now, Lord! I'd rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen." ⁴ The Lord replied, "Is it right for you to be angry about this?"

Philippians 2:1-5, 14-15 Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? ² Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. ³ Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

¹⁴ Do everything without complaining and arguing, ¹⁵ so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.

Questions:

- Have you ever gotten so distracted with what's not going right, or not going the way you wanted that you forgot to see the beauty around you? What was happening? How did you feel?
- Jonah was mad because God was gracious, and so instead of seeing the amazing things happening, lives changing, he just pouted. Have you ever found yourself in that kind of situation?
- This week, if you start to get upset about things not going the way you want them to – try taking a deep breath and look around...just maybe you'll see the beauty around you too!

Reading for the Week:

Monday: Psalms 100:4-5

Tuesday: 2 Corinthians 4:15

Wednesday: James 1:1-4

Thursday: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Friday: Romans 5:3-5