

Zoar Baptist Church — Sunday, September 14, 2025

Sermon Series: JONAH: Living in a World with God & Sinners

Sermon Title: Trust & Obey...or Go Your Own Way

Main Scripture Passage: Jonah 1:1-3 NLT

Main Point: Fleeing in never freeing. Freedom is only found in following God.

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures & Points

Trust & Obey...or Go Your Own Way

Jonah 1:1-3 NLT

Read Jonah as a mirror, not a lens.

God's Reveals His Will for Jonah.

What has God revealed to us about His Will?

- God's Sovereign Will
- God's Moral Will
- God's Permissive Will
- God's Personal Will

Following God's Will starts with knowing God's Heart.

Exodus 34:6 NLT
Psalms 86:5 NLT

How does Jonah respond to God's Will?

- Distance from God's Personal Will
- Declines God's Permissive Will
- Disobeys God's Moral Will
- Distrusts God's Sovereign Will

There is a Collision of the Wills inside of you.

Galatians 5:16-17 NLT
Jonah 1:3 NLT

Fleeing is never freeing.

Freedom is only found in following God.

How do we follow God's Will?

- Trust God's Sovereign Will
- Obey God's Moral Will
- Accept God's Permissive Will
- Walk in God's Personal Will

Following God's Will is bringing your heart into harmony with His heart.

Joel 2:13 NLT

Where are you fleeing from the Holy Spirit?

Start talking. Find a conversation starter to get you talking.

- What are some things you insist must be done your way?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get you thinking.

- Read **Galatians 5:16-17 & Jonah 1:3**. What are some ways we go the opposite direction in life that God wants us to go? How can we allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit of God instead of our sinful nature (or flesh)?
- Read **Joel 2:13**. How do we often try to change by our actions (tearing clothes), without changing the desires of our hearts? Where do we need to change our hearts to align with God's heart?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Share about a time when had difficulty accepting the things that God allowed to happen. Have you been able to trust God with it? Be honest about where are at and if you are still struggling.
- Where have you seen God bring good from a situation that seemed evil? Share about what you saw and what it taught you. (If you can't think of something you've seen or experienced, recall a story from the Bible.)

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, thank You for revealing everything we need to know. Help us to trust You with the situations we don't understand. And help us to follow Your Will, knowing Your way's better. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Determine an area where you have been running from what God has asked you to do. Make a commitment to repent and immediately do what God has asked you to do. Share your decision with a trusted believer for accountability.