



GOD SPEAKS

A MESSAGE SERIES FROM THE MINOR PROPHETS

“A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Tarshish”
by Guest Speaker Pastor Keivan Tehrani

Jonah 1:1-3

¹ 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 1:1-3

³ 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.

Jonah 1:1-3

After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.



Tarshish

Nineveh

2500 miles

550 miles

Joppa

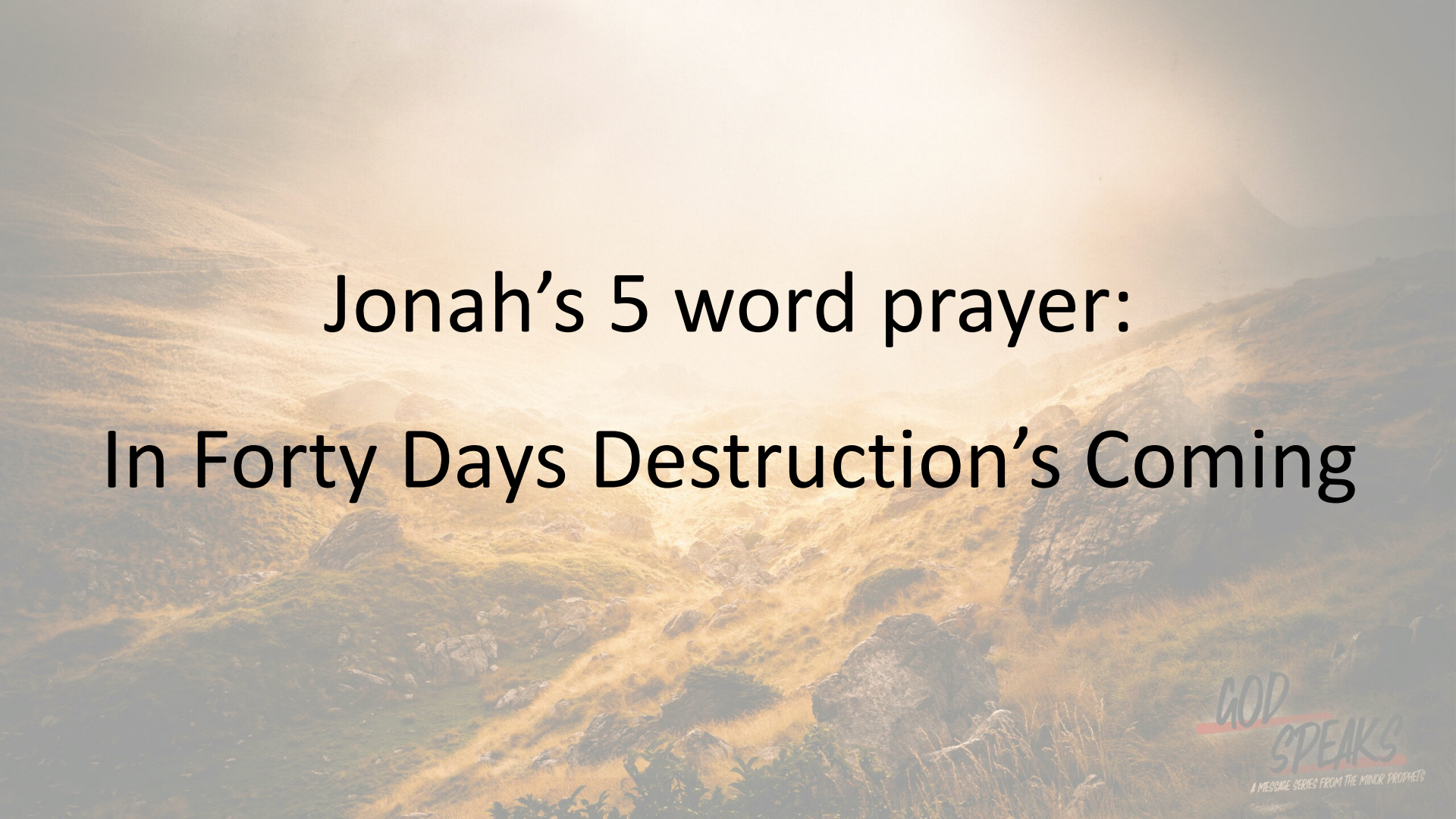
Jonah almost missed his bus
because of fear, selfishness
but mostly because of his **hatred**
of the Ninevites.

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Jonah had a hard time receiving
God's mercy for himself
and for the Ninevites.

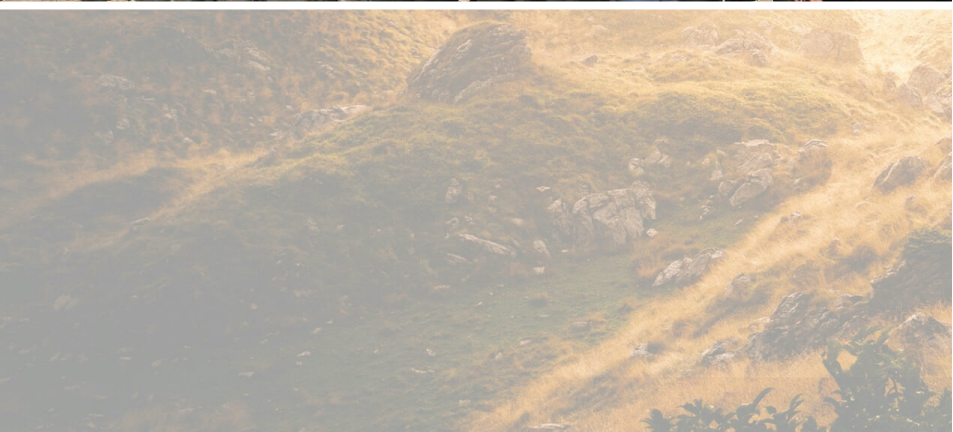
Most people focus on the
Big Fish Story and miss God's
incredible mercy.



Jonah's 5 word prayer:
In Forty Days Destruction's Coming

Jonah's shipmates and the Ninevites
(including the King) had a greater
spiritual transformation
than he did.

Right now on a global scale we are
seeing the destructive effects of
hatred and unforgiveness.



Three Biblical Loves

1. **Love God**
2. **Love our neighbors**
3. **Love one another**

Matthew 11:36-40

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

Matthew 11:36-40

'This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Galatians 6:10

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do **good to all people**, especially to those who belong to the **family of believers**.

Loving God is fairly easy, loving other believers comes naturally but loving our neighbors (especially our enemies) is much harder.

**God is both too holy and too loving to either
destroy Jonah or to allow Jonah to remain
as he is, and God is also too holy and too
loving to allow us to remain as we are.**

~ Tim Keller

We are not the church because
we come to a church. We become
his church when we practice
the **three loves faithfully.**



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The Book of Jonah is a foretelling
of God's incredible **love** and **mercy**
in the New Testament.

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16-17

For God **did not send** his Son into the world
to condemn the world, but to save the world
through him.

4 Beautiful Lessons from Jonah's Life

1. God whispers to us, "Pray and learn to love everyone, including your enemies."
2. Loving our enemies is painful and can cost us.
3. God doesn't just walk among us, He walks among our enemies while praying for them, too.
4. God's love and mercy is for ALL.

**If you were a hundred times worse
than you are, your sins would be no match
for His mercy.**

~ Tim Keller