



**Series:** Running From God

**Sermon:** Part 5: Heart Storms

**Date:** Sunday, October 13th, 2024

An idol: Anything that we love more or deem more important than God. Something or someone that we worship and give our extreme devotion and time to, even to the point where we make sacrifices for it.

How may you be trying to use the real God to actually get the idol god that you so desperately want?

Jesus + \_\_\_\_\_ that we worship

God doesn't just want to be one of many but the One who has \_\_\_\_\_ over all else.

*When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, He relented and did not bring on them the destruction He had threatened. But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. (Jonah 3:10-4:1)*

The same event that calmed God's wrath has now provoked \_\_\_\_\_ wrath.

*He [Jonah] prayed to the Lord, "Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity." (Jonah 4:2)*

Jonah had enjoyed God's mercy when that mercy was extended to him when he failed, but now, Jonah resents it when that same mercy is extended to others who failed, especially those he hates.

What if God treated Jonah the way Jonah wanted God to treat the people of Nineveh?

If God is the God of justice and if He brings justice by punishing sin and those involved in it, then how could He also allow evil and violence to go unpunished and extend mercy to those same people that are causing all the problems?

*"The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished; He punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation." (Exodus 34:6-7)*

*"Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live." (Jonah 4:3)*



Jonah’s response to when he didn’t get what he wanted actually \_\_\_\_\_ what is most important to him.

Such attitudes only reveal where our heart actually is with God and that we were actually looking to those other things for our source of meaning and looking to those other things to save us.

*But the Lord replied [to Jonah], “Is it right for you to be angry?” (Jonah 4:4)*

What are the idols that we cling onto that we worship as god and that prevent us from fully trusting the Real God with all of our life?

Good things in your life don’t become god things that you worship, instead, those good things have their proper place in our lives because the \_\_\_\_\_ has His proper place in our heart.

*“I will only obey You, if You give me \_\_\_\_\_.”*

*“I will only love You if You give me \_\_\_\_\_.”*

*“I will only be happy if You give me \_\_\_\_\_.”*

Whatever that blank is, really reveals what the idol is and how you may be using God in order to try and get it.

We find \_\_\_\_\_ from our idols when we love God more than the idol.

**Bottom Line:** *Are we serving God to get things from Him, or are we serving God because we love Him, want to be with Him, and because we want to become more like Him?*

**Questions to reflect on this week or with others:**

1. *How do you respond when God says no to what you want? Do you get angry at Him or do you trust Him?*
2. *How may God be inviting you to evaluate what idols are competing with God in your life?*
3. *In what ways do you have the tendency to try to leverage the Real God as a means to serve your agenda?*

*Songs used in service: Trust It All (North Point Worship), God and God Alone (Chris Tomlin), Holy Forever (CeCe Winans), Jireh (Maverick City Music & Elevation Worship)*

**Any prayer requests?**

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**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What can we be praying for you about?**