

CHARACTER + CORRECTION

INTRO//

- *Trick shot*
- What's up faith students! Welcome to the best night of the week, so glad each and every one of you is here!
- Tonight we're continuing our series: GOD PERFECT
 - This series is looking at how God is perfect in EVERY way
 - Starts with his character: consistent and unchanging
 - Last week we talked about judgment
 - Tonight we're talking about correction

ILLUSTRATION + CONNECTION//

- Just like judgement, correction can have a bad connotation
- We don't like being corrected, it means we're off and a change is needed
- *share a story of your parent/an authority figure correcting you to protect you*
 - Lead away from burning stove
 - Got in trouble for being mean
 - Keep you off the road
 - Etc
- A lot of times growing up, we get correction from a place of protection
- This is how the correction of God is!
 - God's correction is to get us back in alignment with His will for our life
- We see this in the story of Jonah:
 - He ran from God and God corrected Jonah to get Him back on course/protect Him

Pray

-Jonah's story starts with God telling Him to go to Ninevah (an evil and idolatrous city) and tell them about the 1 true God and call them to repent

-we immediately see Jonah's response:

SCRIPTURE//

JONAH 1:3-6, 12-17

Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the Lord by sailing to Tarshish. **4** But the Lord hurled a powerful wind over the sea, causing a violent storm that threatened to break the ship apart. **5** Fearing for their lives, the desperate sailors shouted to their gods for help and threw the cargo overboard to lighten the ship.

But all this time Jonah was sound asleep down in the hold. **6** So the captain went down after him. "How can you sleep at a time like this?" he shouted. "Get up and pray to your god! Maybe he will pay attention to us and spare our lives."

12 "Throw me into the sea," Jonah said, "and it will become calm again. I know that this terrible storm is all my fault." **13** Instead, the sailors rowed even harder to get the ship to the land. But the stormy sea was too violent for them, and they couldn't make it. **14** Then they cried out to the Lord, Jonah's God. "O Lord," they pleaded, "don't make us die for this man's sin. And don't hold us responsible for his death. O Lord, you have sent this storm upon him for your own good reasons."**15** Then the sailors picked Jonah up and threw him into the raging sea, and the storm stopped at once! **16** The sailors were awestruck by the Lord's great power, and they offered him a sacrifice and vowed to serve him. **17** Now the Lord had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights.

- Jonah hated the people of Ninevah and didn't want to extend grace and mercy to them
- Jonah was afraid they would repent and turn to God, he wanted to see them be judged
- God corrected Jonah and (physically) fixed his course and gave him another opportunity to take this message of repentance to Ninevah
- God's heart is for grace, 2nd chances and that "none would perish"
- God wanted Jonah to bring the message of repentance to protect them from judgment
- God corrected Jonah to get him back on track and serve His purpose

MAIN POINT// GOD WILL CORRECT US BECAUSE GOD CARES MORE ABOUT OUR CHARACTER THAN OUR COMFORT

- Sometimes God will change and take things from our life to refine us and fix our character
- Jonah was probably really uncomfortable on the boat in the storm
- Jonah was probably really uncomfortable in the belly of the whale
- But God corrected him to give him an opportunity to change his attitude + perspective
- Unfortunately he didn't **fully** learn
- He was obedient and took the message to Ninevah and many repented and turned to YHWH
- But this is what we see in Jonah 4:

SCRIPTURE// JONAH 4:1-11

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?"

5 Then Jonah went out to the east side of the city and made a shelter to sit under as he waited to see what would happen to the city. **6** And the Lord God arranged for a leafy plant to grow there, and soon it spread its broad leaves over Jonah's head, shading him from the sun. This eased his discomfort, and Jonah was very grateful for the plant.

7 But God also arranged for a worm! The next morning at dawn the worm ate through the stem of the plant so that it withered away. **8** And as the sun grew hot, God arranged for a scorching east wind to blow on Jonah. The sun beat down on his head until he grew faint and wished to die. "Death is certainly better than living like this!" he exclaimed. **9** Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry because the plant died?"... **10** Then the Lord said, "You feel sorry about the plant, though you did nothing to put it there. It came quickly and died quickly. **11** But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness, not to mention all the animals. Shouldn't I feel sorry for such a great city?"

- This story shows God isn't concerned with our comfort as much as he is our character
- It's better for us to listen to God and allow Him to change our character
 - Otherwise don't be surprised when God keeps doing things in correction to fix your character
- God will make you uncomfortable if it means you'll draw near to Him and walk in his purpose for your life!
- Don't be confused on what God's correction is:
- **Sometimes we can confuse the world's corruption for God's correction**
- Sometimes we can have a warped view of how God operates
 - Like he's up there judging us waiting to strike and punish us when we mess up

- This can cause us to believe things that evil things that happen in our life are God's correction
- The truth is there's some things that happen as a result of living in a corrupted and evil world because of sin
 - Sickness
 - Death
 - Loss
 - Hurt
 - Etc
- And other times, there are things that happen, move and shift in our life as a result of God correcting us and trying to get us back on course of following Him and the purpose He has for us!
- The more we know God + His character, the easier we will be able to tell the difference

Share a personal story of this

ALTAR//

- It's God's heart that we would walk with Him and in what He has for us!
1. Ask yourself if you may be in a season of correction and if God is maybe trying to get your attention and draw you back on course and closer to Him
 - "Search my Heart oh God"
 2. Salvation call