

**Series:** The Gospel According to Jonah

**Sermon:** The Inner Decision

**Main Scripture:** Jonah 3:1-10

**Supporting Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 5:17; Matthew 10:38-39; Proverbs 24:17-18; Numbers 23:19; Judges 6:14

**Pastor Kip McCormick**

**Date:** Feb 18, 2024

**Message Takeaway:** Heart change leads to character change, which leads to life change, which leads to world change. It starts with an inner decision.

**Supporting Thoughts:**

- We serve a God of second, third, and “umpteenth” chances.
- With death there’s a resurrection.
- 40: A number of trial and testing.
- Have you ever considered that when God does a move somewhere, He often uses a woman or a man who is available and obedient; who’s willing to take a risk to step out in the calling for the moment?
- A life of meaning is comprised of a powerful God and a humble servant.
- If someone repents, God consistently forgives; if someone refuses to repent, God consistently judges.
- Suffering often makes you useful.
- Your response to suffering can be a catalyst of change in the lives of others.
- The bookends of our lives are found in a half dozen words on each end: "Here am I, Lord, send me" and "Well done good and faithful servant." The meaningful life of a Christ follower sits in between those two bookends.
- Challenge: Ask yourself, “What inner decision is God calling on me to make today?”

**Discussion Questions:**

- In Jonah 1:1-3 and Jonah 3:1-3, God gives the same command to Jonah. What decision did Jonah have to make? Why was it a tough decision?
- How do you define “inner decision”? Describe a time in which you had to make one. Why was it tough? What were the reasons and what were the results?
- Kip said, “With death, there’s a resurrection.” How have you seen life come from failures in life? At home, in your career, in church and ministry?
- When God moves, He often has a man or woman in mind to lead in that movement, whether it’s in a family, a church, a neighborhood, or a nation. Discuss that with your group and use examples if you’ve seen that happen.
- What did Kip mean when he said that a life of meaning is comprised of a powerful God and an obedient/humble servant?
- What inner decision is God calling you to make? Are you willing to share that with the group?

**Sources:** Timothy Keller, *Rediscovering Jonah: The Secret of God’s Mercy*; J. Vernan McGee, *Jonah and Micah Commentary*; Tom Constable, “*Constable Expository Notes*” (Plano Bible Chapel, Plano TX).