

Computer Generated Transcript - We've been going for the last several several weeks on this this idea of extraordinary God And so we're just telling the common Bible stories again and again encouraging people to just dive a little deeper into them I enjoy this time I enjoy doing these kind of things there are so many different truths that are in these bible stories and if you're new to your church and I say a common Bible story and then then then then you hear story you've never heard before don't worry about it all right there common of people who've been coming to church for a long time it might be brand new to you and that's OK. But there are stories that many of us have grown up with have heard lots of times and and really we talked about this every week there's two things I really want to get into people's heads as we go through this and the first is these are just ordinary people right we sometimes take these characters in the Bible and we elevate them to this level of like superhero hero or super human like in a way that we could never relate to them because God has done such amazing things through them that we're like wow that's so awesome he could never use me like that and I just one of the things I hope you hear out of out of all of this in this whole series is that these are just ordinary people they're just people like you and me they just were regular people some of them were absolutely like if you were trying to pick a candidate for a job they would be on the bottom of your application list you know I mean like some of them not only were not qualified to do what they did like they weren't qualified for life you know what I mean like they were just they were the last pick you know but God did amazing things through them you know what I mean they're ordinary people and God did extraordinary work through them and we need to remember that we called them saints you know in some circles or they're put in stained glass windows and there's movies made about them and all you know all we've named our children after them. For four thousand years you know and so we have we have this kind of this this mystique around these people and we just can't relate to them sometimes and I want you to know that that is the wrong reaction to the people in the Bible as a matter of fact I believe that God chose the people that he did specifically because they're relatable people and we've done a total disservice when we can't and we've elevated them to such a high level that we can't relate to them anymore and I hope you get that out of this and the second thing I hope you get out of this is I want to encourage you to get in your Bible and read unfortunately what happens with some sections of the Bible is we hear them as children right and so we're taught them on a flannel graph you know or we sit on little colored chairs and we color our paper about these people and we learn these stories and that's awesome to get these stories in the kids but what happens is sometimes that says deep as our understanding of these stories goes I call it Veggie Tales theology you know what I mean like like your understanding of the Bible and your understanding of who these people are stops in the Veggie Tales level now we need to teach kids as kids there's a lot of benefits to teaching children these stories for them to get into them in a way that they can understand but you can't teach kids certain concepts because they don't have a frame of reference for it right. And so as we get older we're supposed to continue to dig into the word to continue to dig into these stories and there are lessons for us today as adults as students that we might not know if we don't get into the Bible on our own all right and I want to encourage you to get into your Bible and to read it all right to get in there and read if you're trying to figure out how to get started I'm not trying to say that these Bibles books have no value but don't like open the Leviticus and start there OK or numbers you know they have value and you can learn life lessons the Bible says that all all of Scripture is important and I believe that but don't start there OK let's start somewhere else get in and see what the Bible has to say and really really dive into those things if you don't know where to start in reading your bible I would love to have that conversation with you I would love to be able to sit and talk with you if you don't have a Bible or you don't have a Bible that you can understand I want you to come and talk to me afterwards I'd like to give you one all right when we believe this so strongly as a church that we are willing to pay this for you to have one all right and so so let me know if that is your situation we would love to put those things in your hands but I want to encourage you to get into the Bible and let it speak to your life all right we're going to tell a very familiar story today even if you haven't been in church you've probably heard something about this I want you to open your Bible to the Book of

Jonah All right it's in the Old Testament you know you're going to open it up about halfway that will be Psalms and proverbs and then you'll you'll start flipping toward the back and you'll get to some names and then you'll get to some really small books with people that have funny names all right and join us right in the middle of their all right if you don't know where that is maybe look at your table of contents to help you get there I'm going to read out of the New Living Translation If you use your version or look on the phone or something like that and you like to read the same translation that I read out of it's the N L T All right and so you can see the same words if you've got your own favorite That's fine all right but I want to start with this idea Jonah is a prophet and then in the nation of Israel particularly in the Old Testament this is an esteemed position this means God speaks to Jonah and then Jonah delivers God's will. Word to the people all right and that is a huge deal all right that is that is how these people are hearing from their god and it's a it's a position that's revered and kind of elevated in those things but it comes with a great responsibility right if you are you could use that to really manipulate things and not represent God well and we see that in the Old Testament as well where people were making up whatever people wanted to hear and saying it was God and that led to nothing but destruction but God speaks to these prophets and he brings his word to his people and then they're responsible to bring it out and share it with their people and so that's what Jonah is joining is a prophet the Lord gives this message to join you can see in chapter one verse one and he says get up and go to the great city of Nineveh announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are Verse three and this is such a such an interesting dynamic and this is how you know join us relatable OK But 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 went on board hoping to escape the Lord by sailing the tarsus Now it's interesting on a number of levels here OK first of all John as a prophet and so he's probably heard God's voice no matter where he is right so he's like OK I'm going to try and trick God and run away. Over every single person in the nation of Israel at this time Jonah should have been the one who knew better right like if anybody knew I can't hide from God It should have been Jonah right but Jonah hears God say go to Tarshish now I'm sorry go to Nineveh Nineveh is the capital city of the Assyrian Empire at this time all right it is it is the capital city the Assyrian Empire has totally destroyed wiped out conquered captured all of the nations around it that's why we call it an empire right if you study history it's this big place and one of the places they've conquered is JOIN US homeland and so join up pretty much can't stand the Assyrians and you would think if God says go there and preach judgment toward them joining would be like I am on board. I'm going to go and yell at these people in the name of God sounds good. Except he knows the heart of God. And we'll get into that later but the heart of. Joe knows it and so he gets up and runs the other way and if you can put this picture up here I want you to I know this is going to be small and so some of you might not be able to see it. And the battery in my laser pointers did them. OK so you can see the green circle down in the bottom this is maybe a little tricky to understand in this small of a thing but the white area represents land and the gray area represents water all right and the green circle right down there is Jerusalem and Joppa as a coastal city right in the nation of Israel there all right it's in that green circle Nineveh the capital city of Syria is in the red circle to the north east of Joppa see that it's landlocked it's bound in there it's to the northeast to the best of our ability Tarshish is in south western Spain it's that second red circle there right so God says to Jonah I want you to go north east by land to Nineveh and join us like how about I get in a boat and go almost due west to Tarshish right he goes in does the exact opposite thing of what God has asked him to do anybody relate to that. You heard God tell you to do something you're like no I don't want to do that as a matter of fact that's exactly the opposite of what I want to do so God I believe I heard you but I'm going to pretend like I didn't and I'm going to do my own thing anyway relatable. Thing most of us if we've been serving God for longer than about a week can say that we've done something like that all right where we know what we're supposed to do and we just do what we want to do anyway all right and so that's what's that's the backdrop of this story and if you're familiar with the story at all you know that Jonah gets on this boat and he starts having to Tarshish and what happens. A big storm comes

in all right and this crew that sails on the Mediterranean Sea which is known for its storms all right this this this this crew that is season that knows what they're doing begins to panic right and so what do they do they start lighting their load they start doing all these things meanwhile John is taking a nap in the hole right like he's he's sleeping through this horrible storm that people think they're going to die and this crew doesn't know what to do and so they eventually decide that this cannot be a natural storm that this must be the work of some god OK that some guy has got it out for some person on this boat and we need to figure out what happens so the camp of the captain goes down in verse six to wake up and he says get up and pretty your god maybe he'll pay attention to us and spare your lives Jonah says or and then in verse seven says the crew cast lots to see which of them had offended the gods and cause a terrible storm so what that just means is they basically they pray to their god over these these little dice or whatever that they are these wood blocks and they spin them and whoever it then lands towards whoever gets the wrong answer on there that's God answering by way of these lots and saying it's you right I don't really recommend that as a good way of making decisions. You know they did a lot of the Old Testament I don't really recommend it but it's what they did a lot not just the Jews but a lot of cultures did this right so they cast lots to see which one of the fin of the gods and cause a terrible storm when they did this the lats identified Joan as the culprit verse eight Why has this awful storm come down on us they demanded Who are you what is your line of work what country are you from what is your nationality it's a lot of questions. For the middle of a storm join answers and verse and I'm a Hebrew I worship the LORD the God of Heavens Who made the sea in the land the sailors were terrified when they heard this for he had already told them he was running away from the Lord so they've all got their little gods right they've all got their small. The gods that they've created that they pray to that they're looking at but Jonah has already told them like OK I worship a God but I'm running away from him and now Jonah describes this god to them. He's not just some wooden creation he's the God that made all of this stuff right he's the God that made everything you make your small gods out of and now they're scared because they're like why would you run from that. Right if he made everything why on earth would you run. Oh why did you do it they groaned. Eleven and since the storm was getting worse all the time they asked him what should we do to you to stop this storm no pressure. Right all right so this storm is going to kill all of us so what do we have to do to you to make it stop not how can we survive what do we have to do to you. To make this storm stop right enjoin is like throw me into the sea. If I'm gone there's no reason for this storm to continue. The sailors were terrified when they heard this or I'm sorry verse thirteen I just about bounced up here a little bit verse thirteen instead the sailors role even harder these are good men they don't want to just throw John into the sea they know he's going to die. OK there are people who care but other people at least to the degree where they don't want to commit murder OK so they start rolling harder but it's too violent they can't make it so they cry to the Lord verse fourteen they cry out to the Lord Jonah's God Oh Lord they pleaded don't make us die for this man sin. Right like this guy's a screw up not us don't hold us accountable don't us hold us responsible for his death Oh Lord you said this story upon him for your own good reasons like God What we can't figure you out we don't understand all this stuff but we know you've got your you know I think if some of us would understand even that level of who God is we'd be better off if we had the understanding of the sailors who don't know God. Some of us might have a clearer picture of who God is like you've got your own reasons for this we don't know what they are we don't have to understand them but because this is all your work anyway please don't hold us accountable. The same so the sailors pick John up and throw him into the raging sea and the storm stopped at once right I've said this before I'm going to say it again my imagination works in overdrive OK I think that I'm normal and everyone who doesn't see things the way that I do is weird but as I read these things I mean. It says immediately and they're sailors so they can like throw Jonah a mile and a half away from the boat right so they throw in this is one area where I think Veggie Tales got it right if you've ever seen Jonah. Like they throw him overboard the storm stops immediately that means they can probably still see him. Right like he's right by the boat it's immediate right they throw him over and there he is and it says the Lord arrange we call the story

Jonah in the whale but we don't really know if it's a whale a Bible just says great fish right now the Lord arranged for seventeen for a great fish to swallow Jonah and Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights I love here. Again if I talk about this at all the sailors faith here is amazing they actually understand who God is without knowing him you know I mean they talk about how God's got his own reasons for doing things they recognize the power of who God is they're in awe of him it actually says in verse sixteen that they're awestruck by this God's power and they they offer him a sacrifice like they don't even know him but they just they sacrifice to him because like while this god. Can do whatever. Right this isn't just our wooden carving this is a God that homes the sea that was going to kill us. And they recognize it and I find that amazing right and join us in a fish and you can see John as in praise writes good idea right you're running away from God there's a giant storm they throw you into the ground and a fish eats you probably a good time to pray OK and so Jonah prays this prayer and you want to if you study this prayer and I'm not going to go into it in depth this morning but if you study this prayer there's a lot of who God is in this prayer and there's a lot of who Jonah is in this prayer right Jonah exaggerates and Jonah says some funny things and Jonah this is you know join us talking about how you know verse five I sank beneath the waves in the water closed over me seaweed. Wrapped itself around my head I sank down to the very roots of the mountains like all of a sudden he's underground now you know instead of in the middle of a sea you know I mean like Jonah's Jordan is really telling a story in this prayer right but at the end of it he really comes back into this right and he talks about how God saved him he remembers the Lord is earnest prayer goes out to him verse nine but I will ask for sacrifices to you with songs of praise and I will fulfill all my vows and here here's the here's the bottom line of this whole prayer for my salvation comes from you alone Jonah at this moment for this small portion of this small book Jonah actually responds to God in the way he should. And he realizes who God is where his salvation lies and how it goes and so now we're in chapter three it says the Lord spoke to join a second time get up and go to the great city of Manama Nineveh and deliver the message I have given you right I missed the part where it says that the fish barf join up on the beach that's the end of chapter two K.. But Jonah was in the Mediterranean Sea And now he's got to walk or ride a camel or get in a caravan or whatever because none of us not by the sea so he's got time to think about this whole thing that just happened right and he starts walking toward this city and you can see him you know he's wherever that fish. Up on the beach he's got to walk to get there he's got some time right and he's going through this thing and it says Get up go to the city right God's message hasn't changed I want you to go to Nineveh I still want you to go which I think some of us need to hear because some of us feel like if we screwed up the first time was never going to give us a second chance Jonah messed up as bad as anybody's ever messed up took a storm in a fish to get him back on track and God just says I want you to go finish what I gave you to do. Don't don't the message hasn't changed goal do what I told you to do OK this time job a the Lord's command probably the most needless verse in the Bible right I mean again storm fish this time we're probably going to get it right if you don't listen this time you may be the dumbest human being of all time right I mean this is your not when Jonah goes he obeys the Lord's command he goes It says that the city is so large it took three days to see it all in verse three on the day Jonah entered the city verse for he shouted to all the crowds forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed. The people of Nineveh believe God's message and from the greatest to the least they declare to fasten put on burlap to show their sorrow and even to the king the king ends up hearing it and he declares a fast and he's like Listen he says to everybody you must put on garments of mourning we need to fix what's going on the king of Nineveh now we don't know if this is the Emperor of the nation of Assyria or the ruler of this city right they would call them both KING OK we can't say for sure you know that this is the entire Syrian empire but what we can say is the city of Noah has been warned and at least in this city the ruler of this city the king of of Nineveh OK he comes out and he says. We need to do this in verse nine who can tell perhaps even God will change his mind and hold back the fierce anger from destroying us this tells me a couple of things I write this This tells me that that these people believed in the power of God's right and somehow in some way I believe God had to work a mighty miracle in this whole thing

because. As much as I think Jonah would enjoy preaching condemnation of these people just because of who he is and what happens if he continues on here later I don't think Joan his whole heart was in his message. And we're going to get to that in a second I'll tell you why in just a minute here but I don't think John was given it his best shot you know he didn't pull out his ring or sermon here he is delivering the message that God gives him to deliver and I fear God you know you hear these people respond and this whole city comes in to a point where they understand maybe God will turn his anger away and verse ten of chapter three you see when God saw what they had done and how they put a stop to all their evil ways he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened that is the God that we serve. God demands no less than your heart. But it takes no more than your heart for God to forgive God demands you. But it doesn't take any more than that they repent they point the other way and God says. All right. That's enough for me for one and you begin to really see Jonas heart here this change of plans greatly upset Jonah and he became very angry. Right so like an entire city just repented and God's anger relented and this takes Jonah off now most traveling evangelists if they walk into a city and the entire city were to repent that would be on their flyer for the rest of their life right I'm the pastor that went to this town and the whole city repented like that is how they advertise for the rest of their life. Jonah is ticked he's not mad and then of he's ticked at God. And you're going to see this happen so we complained to the Lord about it. Didn't I say before I left home you would do this. This is why I ran away to talk as I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God slow to get angry and filled with the unfailing love you are eager to turn back from this going people like Joe knows the heart of God. He's merciful he's compassionate he's loving he doesn't want to destroy I knew it can't you hear it like God I told you verse three JUST KILL ME NOW Lord. Read your Bible that's literally what he says just kill me now I'd rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen I'd rather be dead. Then see Nineveh not be destroyed. Kill me if this is how it's going down just just kill me. You talk about like a four year old can trim right just I'd rather be dead first for The Lord replies is it right for you to be angry about this then join I went out to the side of the city and made a shelter to sit under as he waited to see what would happen to the city right this makes me laugh so hard. Joan has been predicting God's going to destroy the city in forty days right he's done his part he's gone and shared so now he goes and finds a good vantage point to watch the city burn. Right like he builds a shelter to go sit and be like God I thought I'd rather be dead so if I'm alive maybe you're still going to kill him that's what I think is running through his mind right and he sits there he's like I'm going to find a spot to watch never burn like I want the best seat in the house when God starts throwing lightning bolts at this place. Right that's that's where Jonah is that that's where his heart is in this whole thing right verse six in the Lord arrange for a levy plan to grow there because God's good he's about to teach him a lesson through a piece of greenery it soon spreads Bradleys over Jonah's head shaving him from the sun this eased his discomfort and joy was very grateful for the plant right again if you look at where that is. We don't usually consider the Middle East cool you know like as far as like a you know it's not the same temperatures as we have here right it's hot so some shade that's nice OK he's very grateful for this plant but God also arranged for a worm. For seven the next morning and on the way made through the stem of the plant so that it withered away and as the sun grew hot got a rain for a scorching east wind to blow on Jonah. Now you might look at that and be like man gods mean. God is trying to teach his servant something here. OK. The sun beat down on his head until he grew faint and wish to die death is certainly better than living like this he exclaimed Jonas at the full peak of his maturity right now OK Jonah chose where he's sitting Can we just remember that like he doesn't have to be sitting on the cliff side watching Nineveh hoping to see Nova die he could just walk into town and get some water you know maybe pick up a Coleman tent you know set it up on the cliff side you know I mean he's got options he's only there by its own choice. But he says I'd rather be dead. Than live like this first now and then God said the Jonah is it right for you to be angry because the plant died yes join a retarded even angry enough to die really like a plant that you didn't plant grew and then died and you're OK being angry enough to die. Over this plant right you see where his heart is his heart is all about himself and he's just thrown a tantrum right depending

on your parenting style if this was your kid you would either go to the bathroom. And give some intensive fellowship to your child. Or you'd sit them in timeout right I like depending on what you do here as a parent you don't let your parent as a parent you don't let your child act like this and this is a prophet of God throwing a tantrum. Right then the Lord said and you can hear God's voice here and you can hear its heart beat you feel sorry about this plan though you did nothing to put it there it came quickly and it died quickly but never has more than one hundred twenty thousand people living in spiritual darkness not to mention all the animals. Shouldn't I feel sorry for this great city. Joining you're like ready to die over a fern. There are a hundred and twenty thousand people down there and if they didn't choose me things are all going wrong and you're more concerned about this dumb plant. And one hundred twenty thousand people the end. That's it Jonah over we don't know how Jordan responded to what God said we don't know if he realizes that he's been a baby and he repents again we don't know if Joran just gets mad and pouts and goes back to Jerusalem we have no idea what the end of this story is because right there is how this story ends and we still name our kids Jonah and come back to that I struggle with it. You know exactly what I'm talking about here this is not the way you would want your story like if you were going to be in the Bible and you got to pick a story that would be like if you could take your name and put it in the Bible in any one of the stories in the Bible would any rational person pick this one like yeah I'd really like to trade places with Jonah and be remembered for the next five thousand years like that right I mean this is this is crazy he cares more about a plant than people now listen it's really easy to judge Jonah Jonah felt Nineveh deserved judgment. He felt like that earned it it was a cruel in Pyar I mean history tells us you don't even have to believe in the Bible look at history and you will know that Assyria is one of the cruelest empires to ever be on the face of this earth I believe in the Bible and I want to say you should discount I'm just saying you don't need the Bible to say that he believed that they were proud vicious ruthless that they deserved God's judgment not his mercy. And because of that. He said when God asked him to be this messenger of mercy he knows God's heart and he runs the other way and I would just ask at a really just kind of gut check level. Who is it in your life that you'd rather run the other way and share God's mercy with. Most of us probably have that one person. Maybe multiple people in our lives that have heard us. Maybe abused us maybe it's a family member or maybe it's you know maybe it's a stranger or maybe it's an old friend that broke your confidence and drag your name through the mud maybe it's that boss that you feel just ripped you off whatever. Who's that one person that if if God were to say to you I want you to go to them. And give that person the message of my love you'd be like. I don't want to do that one it's easy to judge you on a. Until you realize that this is just life. If you want to take it to another level let's talk I mean like let's just say god like I'm going to call you to be a missionary like Woo God speaking to me I'm calling the ministry so I want you to go be a minister missionary to ISIS like that's it that's your mission field to go preach love and forgiveness to ISIS so that they might come to know me. Because they deserve my love they're spiritually blind they just need mercy that might be easier even though some of you I watch you know what I'd never do that that might be easier than going and making the phone call to your dad who you haven't talked to in fifty fifty years. Who was a brutal tyrant right sometimes it's easier to even think large scale than it is single scale we don't get to make those decisions so people were created by God. And he wants them to come to him. No matter what your opinion of them is now let me preface this I'm not saying that all of you need to go have a one on one with somebody who abused you after church. It's not what I'm saying OK what I am saying is. What kind of value do you place on their soul if God did ask you to go would you or would you run away I know this isn't Veggie Tales but I really believe that this is the heart of the story I believe the heart of this story is a man whose heart had become hardened because of pain hardened because of circumstances toward a people and he cared more about a plant than he did about one hundred twenty thousand people. And it's really easy to laugh and joke and point fingers at Jonah we did it I'll do it again but at a gut level honest check I have to look into my own heart and say Jesus are there people that I value. Less than you do and I just have to answer that question. We all have to answer that question. And where the rubber hits the road this can be tough because I know some of you have been through horrible

things what's the value of soul in your mind God places great value on them again I'm not telling you to go schedule coffee with somebody who abused you please don't I want to make sure that's clear. If God asked you to do something like that be wise right take some people with you. Make sure you're OK But do you view that person's soul as worth it or would you run the other way would you just be Jonah it's hard. It's a difficult thing and yet the only reason this is difficult is because we give ourselves a lot of grace. None of us deserve Jesus on the cross not a single one of us was worthy of his death for us and he did it anyway. Because that was the value of your soul and we just look at all people are like Yeah they hurt me it's not worth it. And we forget that we couldn't earn any other slot of pride there a lot of self deceit there none of us were worth it from a human perspective none of us could earn it and of us deserved it God looked at humanity and he did say I was worth it. You're worth it not because of what you've done but just because of the value I place on you. Because your soul to me is worth it thank God for that how dare we devalue someone else's soul it's not easy it's not fun. And yet it's the collagen to view people the way that God views and to allow God to define people's worth in our mind to allow God to set the value of people and not just our circumstances and our prejudices. For joining did. He allowed the circumstances in the prejudices in his life to determine the value of a city of one hundred twenty thousand people. And the right of Tarshish instead in that of a and he threw a temper tantrum when God forgave them what would you do we're going to close this the way we close most services. If you're in here and you don't know anything about the forgiveness of Jesus and I started talking about your value that Christ saw and how he went to a cross to die for you and that's not something you've ever accepted before I want to give you a chance to choose Jesus this morning so most important thing you could ever do. Jesus Christ came to this earth two thousand years ago he lived he taught he loved people he demonstrated how to view people for us and he showed that finally by dying in our place so that we could be made right with God and if you've never chosen that before. I want to encourage you to do that today to repent before God to been before the cross and just stand up renewed. Because Jesus Christ didn't just die for you he demonstrated who he was by rising again from the dead and you can be made new just like that I want to encourage you in that this morning some of you in here. Listen I I get it I there are people in my life that have taken me years to forgive years. OK not days not weeks not moments years there are people in my life that I still have to apologize to God for the way I talk about them from time to time because of what they did in my life and I start telling stories and it goes from telling a story to gossiping to my heart is in the wrong place again. And I have to bend the before the throne of God to be like for the thousandth time lord. Forgive me and help me to forgive them this is not easy and yet it's right so I'm not going to call you up here this morning you know or have you raise a hand because I just feel like. That's tough to do and a moment isn't going to matter if it's just a moment for you. But some of you in here need to carve out some time just like I was talking about during our worship time you need to carve out space this morning. For God to speak into your life and after I pray I'm going to pray for you and I'm going to encourage you to just stay where you're at. And pray for something and turn around and kneel down maybe some of you need that moment like we talk about here sometimes and you just need to separate yourself from where you are and make a move toward God and you need to come to this altar and you just need to pray. And you need to make sure that you have forgiven those people. Doesn't mean what they did is OK. But you forgive those people and you want what's best for them which is Jesus so you need to do that this morning make room I'm going to ask you close your eyes while you're heads and ask that first question is there anybody in here you don't know Jesus you've not chosen him when we talk about this stuff it's new and and you just you've never chosen to make Jesus your Savior before you've never asked him for his forgiveness you've never been in the before him you never asked him to rule your life and you never receive that grace and that love that comes from the forgiveness of God in this morning you're ready is that you you've never done this before and this morning you would like to I want you to raise your hand I'm not going to call you for we're not going to bear so here just want to give you a moment to respond to God If you have not to this point. Very muddy out there you're not going to wait long. All right you can look at me again. I'm going to close in prayer. For some of you you're not

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done yet and you know and. Some of you you know. I mean I don't even have to say a name I don't have to describe a situation when I started talking about somebody. That you just you cannot bring yourself to value their soul. Or you know if God asks you to go share grace and mercy with that person use come up with a million reasons. Why it shouldn't be. I'm going to pray and we're going to be free to go. Give God space. And I'm going to encourage you not to just get up and go on one encourage you to stay and I'm going to ask people this morning we when they built this church they built a big ole foyer out there specifically for times like this you could go out there and she's talking with people with brain. All right. That's what I was going to ask you to do I'm going to ask if you're done and you feel all right now so you go this is. Not like leave leave but not I'm here to talk out there. But if you're in here and you know that forgiveness is not reigning in your life toward somebody don't leave pray that thing through and start that process again maybe for you it's the thousandth time today. Maybe it's got to be the first step today toward forgiveness. And the journey is just going to start. Don't leave without giving God space to start a miracle in your life. You're not hurting that person by carrying on forgiveness. You just hurt yourself. That's spoken from someone who knows. All right you know. God you're good. I thank you for the message of Jonah. I thank you for. The vulnerability that it would require for an infallible God to put a story like this in the book that's about him. Thank you God for loving me when I didn't deserve it. I pray that you just put your heart inside of me. To show love and grace and mercy to those that I deem unworthy. Or people that have wounded me and just takes time. And I pray that you speak I pray that you be with those who are struggling with this concept right now. Of God I pray that you B.S. and help us to be a church. The models forgiveness. Help us to be a church that cares about your heart help us to be a church that sees people with the value that you place on them not the value you think. You're good guy. May you be glorified by a life. A man.