**Intro: Refusal to do something you didn’t want to do. Comparison to Jonah. Can you teach lessons from Jonah? We must first know what happened. Jonah refused to go to Nineveh (1:1-3). Because of storm, Jonah was thrown overboard (1:4, 12). Fish swallowed Jonah (1:17). Jonah prayed, fish vomited Jonah on dry land (Jonah 2). Jonah delivers The Lord’s message, Nineveh repents (3:4-5). Jonah became displeased with Nineveh’s repentance. (4).**

**Point one: Running/hiding from God always produces negative consequences.**

**God got done what he wanted through Jonah.**

**Genesis 3: Jonah hiding comparison with Adam and Eve hiding from God in the garden**

**What happened to them? Thrown out of the Garden of Eden**

**Matthew 25: One talent man hiding his talent from the master**

**What happened to him? Thrown into outer darkness where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

**What does that mean for us if/when we hide from God?**

**Luke 13:27-28 “and he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you are from; depart from me, all you evildoers.’ 28 In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves are being thrown out.”**

**Message on first point: Never turns out good for us when/if we hide from God.**

**Why? Not only because of the punishment, but just because of the lack of God.**

**What are we to do instead? James 4:8 “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”**

**I Peter 5:7 “Casting all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.”**

**Point two: We must be willing to repent**

**Jonah knew it was about God (2:9), so did the Ninehvites (3:4-5)**

**Psalm 51:1-3 Be gracious to me, oh God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgression, and my sin is ever before me.”**

**Acts 2:37 “Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”**

**We must realize the same thing before it’s too late.**

**Luke 13:5 “I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”**

**II Peter 3:10 “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.”**

**Message on second point: We must realize it is all about God, not about us, and we must repent in time.**

**Point three: God forgives**

**God forgave the Ninehvites. (3:10)**

**Nineveh was one of the most, if not the most, wicked city, and God still forgave them.**

**Acts 2:23 “this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.”**

**Romans 4:7-8 “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered. 8 Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.”**

**Colossians 1:13-14 “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”**

**Hebrews 10:13-14 “For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”**

**Message of third point: God forgave Nineveh, he can forgive us today.**

**Fourth point: We need to rejoice when someone repents.**

**Jonah was angry when Nineveh repented. (4:1)**

**Luke 15:11-32 (parable of the prodigal son)**

**Galatians 6:1 “Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.”**

**Luke 15:7 “I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous person who need no repentance.”**

**Message of fourth point: Heaven rejoices when someone is saved, and we need to as well.**

**Jonah 4:11 “Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?”**