

The Life Challenge

Title: A Love That Won't Let Go
Text: Jonah 1
Speaker: Matt Ewert
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WARM-UP

We often associate love for others with doing nice things for them. But on occasion our love for another compels us to do something that is hard. What is the hardest thing you have ever had to do in a relationship, that was motivated out of love for the other person?

DISCUSSION

Read Jonah 1

- What roadblocks does God throw in Jonah's way that keep him from successfully running from God?
- Do you see these acts of God as his judgement on Jonah for his disobedience?
- Are these events actually God's way of saving Jonah?
- Is it possible that judgement and salvation aren't mutually exclusive, but in some way work together where God is concerned?

Pastor Matt mentioned that other prophets in the bible had died for far less than the level of disobedience Jonah showed.

- Why do you think Jonah was spared by God after such clear disobedience?
- If you were in God's shoes, how would you have responded to Jonah and why?

"Jonah son of Amittai" can be literally translated as "Jonah son of My Faithfulness." Certainly, in the midst of all the challenges outlined in Jonah 1, God showed a kind of faithfulness to the prophet.

- When you think of others, what is it that makes a person "faithful"?
- Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9, 1 Corinthians 10:12-13, 2 Timothy 2:11-13, 2 Thessalonians 3:1-3, 1 John 1:5-9, all passages which refer to God's faithfulness.
- With these passages in mind, how would you describe faithfulness so far as it is an attribute of God?
- What encouragement does it give you to consider God's faithfulness?
- In what way does reflecting on the faithfulness of God challenge you in terms of how you live out faithfulness in this world?