

STILL REACHABLE

Scripture used: [Jonah 1: 8-10, 12-13, 15, 17 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Today, Pastor Hurmon continued the “Relentless Love” series with his sermon “Still Reachable”. Pastor Hurmon encouraged us to move from personal revelation to thoughtful examination in order to answer the “why” of our sufferings.

KEY POINTS

- Critical questions for examination.** In [Jonah 1:8 \(NLT\)](#), the sailors on the boat to Tarshish asked Jonah a series of non-religious questions. These questions fall into three categories.
 - Purpose:** The sailors asked Jonah, “Who are you? What is your line of work?” We can ask ourselves similar questions: *Am I where I am supposed to be? Am I doing what I am supposed to be doing? Is my life going in the right direction?*
 - History:** The sailors also asked Jonah, “What country are you from?” We can take a closer look at our past history to determine how it might be affecting our current situation. *How did I get here?*
 - Family:** Finally the sailors asked Jonah, “What is your nationality?” Our family relationships past and present often influence our decision-making. *Are my family relationships painful, supportive, or enabling?*
- Spiritual answers to non-religious questions:** Jonah was very open and honest in his reply to the sailors. [Jonah 1:9 \(NLT\)](#). He understood that non-religious questions cause us to examine our spiritual reality. Jonah simply said that he was a Hebrew who worshiped the Lord. When we go through our own thoughtful examination, we should also consider the bigger question, “Who do I worship?” If we worship “the Lord, the God of Heaven” like Jonah, all our answers should be a proclamation of His authority in our lives.
- Taking full responsibility:** The sailors had one remaining question for Jonah, “...why did you do it?” [Jonah 1: 10-12](#) Jonah claimed full responsibility for what he had done, and he accepted the consequences when the sailors threw him overboard. Accepting responsibility also means accepting the consequences. Like Jonah, maybe we are responsible for a painful outcome and we need to fully claim and accept the consequences, or maybe we have a loved one that we have been enabling by protecting him/her from the consequences of his/her behavior. *But* God is a God of many chances – His word comes *again* to Jonah. God has a purpose for us that He will relentlessly pursue. [Psalm 139](#) tells us He knit us together in our mother’s womb, and no matter where we go, we can’t escape Him. Jonah was thrown overboard, but God arranged the miracle of a giant fish that swallowed him. Take courage in these words from Pastor Hurmon’s sermon: *The fish arrived in a moment of **unexpected grace**, in the form of an **undesirable circumstance**, making possible an **unanticipated miracle**.* God is more than able to do the same for us in our undesirable circumstances.

DISCUSSION

- HEAR** - Pastor Hurmon presented many powerful questions that we can ask of ourselves as we seek thoughtful examination. Oftentimes this type of examination brings us to a spiritual reality that can be painful. As we open ourselves up to hear God, pray that God will enable you to have a ready heart and mind to accept what He reveals. Pray that He will strengthen you and give you the courage you need to be honest and open like Jonah was with the sailors. What might be blocking you from fully hearing what God wants to be revealed?
- UNDERSTAND** - As we pray and seek wisdom, ask yourself the three questions. Am I where I am supposed to be? In my work, in my living situation, in my spiritual walk? How did I even get here? What in my past has led me here? Are there relationships in my life that are causing me to not be going in the right direction? Are there relationships that are helpful in my walk to obey and follow God?
- DO** - Pastor Hurmon challenged us to find three people in our lives that we trust and know us well, and ask each person: “What is one thing I don’t know about me that will help me to become a better version of myself?” Please come next Sunday, August 4, as Pastor Hurmon continues the series “Relentless Love”.