

FREEWAY

A NOT-SO-PERFECT GUIDE TO FREEDOM

Week 4: Ownership

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Jonah Chapter 1

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: ²“Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

³But Jonah ran away from the LORD...

Own the template of running, blame-shifting and hiding that started all the way back in Genesis 3.

...and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

⁴Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. ⁶The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.”

⁷Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

Own the villain (*Romans 12:17-21*)

⁸So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”

⁹He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

¹⁰This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)

Own the wound before it owns you. (*Romans 12:17-21*)

¹¹The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

¹²“Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”

Own what is yours to own - clean your side of the street.

¹³ Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before.

Own the fact that your best effort has not created the peace you desire.

¹⁴ Then they cried out to the LORD, "Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, LORD, have done as you pleased." ¹⁵ Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm.

Own the fact that ownership means doing something painfully hard.

¹⁶ At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

Own the fact that only God can heal the wounds on our soul.

¹⁷ Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Own the fact that God's fish was salvation, not punishment.

Next Steps

- Actually *own* what you *owe on* by eliminating your consumer debt with the help of Dave Ramsey's **Financial Peace** course, offered here at CTK starting this Sunday, February 9 at 10 AM. Details on today's program insert.
- Take ownership in God's design for your life by learning how he has gifted and wired you. Two sessions of **The Discovery Class** start Sunday, February 23. Details on today's program insert.
- Take ownership of your decision to follow Christ by being baptized during a weekend service on March 1 or 2. Required **baptism classes** are offered February 22 & 23 after services. Details on today's program insert.

Small Group Questions

- 1) How did you celebrate the Super Bowl? Did you find any way to make it an "arrows out" event?
- 2) Who do you have the most empathy for in the story? Jonah? The sailors? Why?
- 3) When you think of someone who has hurt you, how do the words of Romans 12:17-21 make you feel?
- 4) How can you apply the principles of ownership to the wounds in your own soul?
- 5) Can you share a wound that God has healed because you took ownership?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?