

Encore 2026 – Monologue Level 3

Jonah's Least Favorite Thing

by Jeremiah Gamble
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NOTE:

Jonah's story can be found in the book of Jonah in the Old Testament. He is also mentioned in the book of 2nd Kings, and in the New Testament Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

You know what I hate? Injustice. It's not fair.

Know what else I hate? – those people.

And you know who I'm talking about. Those people. The Ninevites. They're the worst!

So, the other day, the Lord says to me (*aside*) – cuz I'm a prophet. The Lord says things to me, and I say those things to people on his behalf – generally bad news, but bad news specifically for specific people, so that they'll change– which they almost never do.

So, the Lord says to me, he says, "Jonah." (*aside*) That's me.

"Go to the great city of Nineveh." (*aside*) Okay, it's big, but it's not great.

"Go and preach against the Ninevites, for I, the Lord, have seen their wickedness." (*aside*) Yeah, ya have.

So, I says to the Lord, "No. No way. Huh uh. Anything would be better than having to go to those people."

So, I go to get me a boat. Go to the port city of Joppa and say, "Get me one ticket outta here. To the farthest place, I don't care what it costs." (*aside*) It costs a LOT, by the way.

So, there I was on this boat tryin' to run away from God. (*aside*) I know. You can't run away from God. Not really.

But here's another thing I know: He's got options. He'll get some other chump to go to Ninevah. It don't gotta involve me.

Well, turns out God did very much want to involve me. And he was making it very clear. A huge storm rolled in outta nowhere and I was like, "Ok God, I get it."

The crew started freakin' out so I says, "Fellas, this is all my fault. Just toss me overboard."

So, they did – one-two-three-heave-ho. And the storm stopped just like that.

But then, because God has a flair for the dramatic, which you may have noticed, I was swallowed by a big– I dunno – I didn't get a good look at the outside!

And when I was in there, I had some time to think and to pray.

So, I prayed. *(starts somewhat calmly and prayerfully)* “Lord, you got me into this. *(angrily)* Get me out! *(softening)* I mean I’m grateful that I’m still alive. That you rescued me in this very unconventional fashion. *(growing angry again)* But ya know – some people got a problem with you! They turn away from you.

But I’m – *(deciding to soften again)* gonna turn toward you. *(resigned)* And I’m gonna do what you asked. Amen.”

And then, voila, I was regurgitated. *(beat)*

So, there I was, right back at Joppa where I started. And God says to me, again, “Go to Ninevah.” And this time I was like, “Yep, got it.” So, I started on my way, cuz it’s a ways. 550 miles a-ways.

So, I had plenty of time to change my mind *(frustrated aside to God)* which I didn’t thank you very much!

And then I arrived at the not-so-great city of Ninevah and got right to work proclaiming the bad news. “Hey you losers! You got forty days to change your miserable ways or else!”

But I says to God, “Forty days? What happened to three strikes you’re out? Forty chances? For these guys? That’s not fair.”

But I told ‘em anyways. And you know what they did? Those people? They listened.

I was floored. And I was mad. Hooooo was I mad! Cuz you wanna know the real reason I didn’t wanna go to Ninevah in the first place?

Cuz I know that the Lord is merciful, gracious and compassionate.

And I’m fine with God showing mercy, but not to them! That’s injustice! And I hate injustice.

So that’s why I’m camped out on this hillside.

I got a great view of the whole rotten city.

Sure, the Ninevites say they’re sorry and they say they’ve changed.

Well, this is the day we find out!

Judgement day!

It’s day forty and I wanna see what God’s gonna do! *(beat)*

But I got a sinkin’ feeling.

Cuz I know that I know that I know God is merciful.

He’s so stinkin’ merciful it just ain’t fair.