

What's In Your Wallet?

Jonah 3

“What’s in your wallet?” is some creative credit card slogan.
But a better question is, “What’s in your heart that you can share with others?”

What had been deposited in Jonah’s heart:

- **Compassion**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Miraculous rescue**
- **A second chance—at life and at ministry.**

What was shared from Jonah’s heart?

Resentment, selfishness, **hatred**, anger, and despair.
God did **not** put these traits into Jonah’s heart.

Why did God pick Jonah? Why include Jonah in the Bible?

1. So we would **notice**—Shock Value.

“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’” —Matthew 18:21-22

In Jesus’ teaching on forgiveness in Matthew 18, we find two exaggerations:

Forgive **77** times (or 70 X 7) (Matthew 18:21-22)

Debts of \$10 million versus 20 bucks. (Matthew 18:23-35)

Jonah represents a life **blessed** by God but one that remains **empty** of Compassion and Forgiveness.

2. We **relate**—Jonah is one of us.

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." —Jonah 3:1-2

We are **reluctant** prophets.

Jonah was not some superhero of a saint that we can never attain.

We are often negative, **hurt**, and **angry**.

As we look to fill ourselves, we remain **empty**.

3. So we would **glorify** God—By His power

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. —2 Corinthians 4:7

When we're **empty**, God places His **abundant** supply within us.

- **Feeding of 5,000** (Matthew 14, Mark 6, Luke 9, John 6)
- **Jonah the greatest evangelist of the scripture** (Jonah 3:10, 4:11)
- **Sinful woman anoints Jesus** (Luke 7:36-48)

If we will step out in faith and obedience:

Show love and God's love begins to overflow within us.

Offer forgiveness and we experience God's forgiveness.

As we show compassion, we experience the supernatural healing and compassion of God.

Memory Verse:

Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish. —Jonah 3:9