Series: Sovereignty of God

Message: God’s Sovereignty When you’re doing a little of both, Jonah

*Jonah 1:1-3 The 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.”*

*3 But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish.*

Discuss God’s response to Jonah’s resistance to God’s plans for him.

Can you imagine a different response from God for someone seemingly doing the exact opposite of what God intended for them?

When are you inclined to resist God’s plans for you?

*Jonah 2:1-9*

*From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. 2 He said:*

*“In my distress I called to the Lord,  and he answered me.
From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry….*

*…When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord,
and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.*

*“Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them.
But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you.
What I have vowed I will make good.
    I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the Lord.’”*

Discuss Jonah’s prayer form the belly of the fish. What are some other responses Jonah could have had given his situation?

*Jonah 4:9-11  But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”*

*“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”*

*But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight.  And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”*

God was patiently teaching Jonah through and in the midst of his circumstances.

When are you most receptive to God’s instruction? When things are smooth or your find yourself in rough waters?

Three lessons for us:

* God’s plans are always about people
* God’s plans include you
* God’s Plans take our responses into account

Discuss these lessons as they apply to us today.