Lessons from the Book of Jonah

Introduction: 1. If you're interested in Jesus, you should be interested in the prophets.
2. Revelation 19:10 says that the spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus.
3. The prophets were great and godly men; men who could not be silenced by bribery or threat.
5. (Matthew 16:13-15) - What a great compliment to the prophets!
6. But then we come to Jonah. He is an ignigma.
7. I wish I knew "the rest of the story," but I don't, so I would like for us to learn some lessons from what we do know.

I. The Book is About a Great God, not a Great Fish
A. I know it's hard not to be captivated by the miracle of the great fish, but what is greater than that is God's love for people.
B. God isn't sitting in heaven, waiting for opportunities to zap us.
C. He wants all men everywhere to repent (2 Peter 3:10).
D. This character trait of God is so uncommon among men (Matt. 5:44).

II. All Men Are Accountable to God
A. (Jonah 1:2).
B. Just because the Gentiles did not have the law of Moses doesn't mean they were not accountable to God.
C. Nor does it mean that God did not love them.

III. We All Run
A. The question is whether we will run with God or run from God.
B. (Jonah 1:3).
C. (Acts 10:5,23).

IV. Sin Isn't Personal or Private
A. Sin, almost always, involves others.
B. (Jonah 1:12-14).
C. (Romans 14:7).

V. God is a God of Second Chances
A. (Jonah 3:1).
B. (Mark 16:7).
C. How many times have we had to ask God for forgiveness for the same thing?

VI. Preach What God Tells Us to Preach
A. (Jonah 3:2).
B. (Romans 1:16).

VII. Discipline and Repentance Go Hand in Hand.
A. (Jonah 1:17-2:1).
B. Discipline is never pleasant, but it results in good (Hebrews 12:5-11).

VIII. Guard Your Attitude.
A. (Jonah 4:1-2).
B. Don't be angry with God's grace (Matthew 20:1-16).

Conclusion: 1. There's so much to learn from the book of Jonah than a story of a great fish.
2. That same God who loved sinful Nineveh, loves you too and wants you to repent.