



Why God Says Nothing and Does Nothing

Date: August 31, 2025
(9:00 AM Digital Only Service)

Theme Statement:

- Sometimes God's silence is not neglect — it's a response to our spiritual condition. When we enter a state of "allow-it-all-ism" — where we knowingly permit disobedience or spiritual drift — God can withdraw both His words and His actions until our hearts turn.
- "Have you ever prayed... and God said absolutely nothing? Today we're going to talk about why heaven can go silent — and what that silence might be saying to you."

Main Text: Jonah 1:1–3 (NIV)

1 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. 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.

I. Jonah Shows Us How God Gets to the Point of Silence

- God initially speaks clearly — but Jonah resists from the start.
- Jonah doesn't argue. He simply acts in opposition.

Observation: Silence from God often follows consistent ignoring of what He already said.

Note: Proverbs 29:1 (NIV)

- Whoever remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy.

II. Notice What God Says to Jonah

Note: God speaks only three times in the whole book — and Jonah's responses are telling.

- **First time:** Command to go to Nineveh (Jonah 1:1–2) — Jonah runs.
- **Second time:** In the belly of the fish (Jonah 2:10, transition to 3:1–2) — Jonah obeys briefly.
- **Third time:** Object lesson with the plant (Jonah 4:9–11) — Jonah refuses to answer.

Note: Jonah 3:1–2 (NIV)

1 Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time:

2 “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

III. Notice How Jonah Responds by His Choices, Not His Word

- In chapter 1 — his actions scream louder than his words.
- He chooses a ship over a sermon.
- He chooses sleep over prayer (Jonah 1:5–6).

Note: Jonah 1:5–6 (NIV)

- **5** All 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.
- **6** The 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.”

IV. Jonah Only Speaks When the Crew Asks Him

Note: Jonah isn’t praying, repenting, or volunteering — he’s answering under pressure.

Note: Jonah 1:8–9 (NIV)

- **8** So 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?”**9** He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

V. Jonah Goes Silent and Only Speaks Again After Facing Consequences

- In the belly of the fish, Jonah finally prays — but it's the first time in the book he seeks God.

Note: Jonah 2:1–2 (NIV)

1 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.”

VI. Jonah Speaks When He Is Frustrated with God

- After Nineveh repents, Jonah complains — revealing his heart.

Note: Jonah 4:1–3 (NIV)

1 But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry.

2 He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

3 Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

VII. Jonah Goes Silent After God Disagrees with Him

- God gives him a living object lesson with the plant.
- Jonah’s last recorded words are in verse 9 — and they are in disagreement with God.

Note: Jonah 4:9–11 (NIV)

- **9** 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.”
- **10** 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.



- **11** 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?”

Note: Jonah never answers God’s question. The book ends with God speaking — Jonah silent.

Key Takeaways

- Jonah speaks only five recorded times in the entire book — and three of those are reactive, not proactive.
- God’s silence can be a sign that He’s already told you what you need to do.
- We often expect new instructions when we haven’t obeyed the last ones.
- “Allow-it-all-ism” dulls spiritual hearing and can cause God to stop speaking until we change.
- God’s last question to Jonah is left unanswered — the real test is not what we say, but whether we respond.

Application Questions:

- Have you been ignoring something God already told you?
- Are you more concerned about your comfort than God’s calling?
- If God asked you a hard question today, would you answer honestly — or go silent like Jonah?

Closing Scripture:

Note: Isaiah 55:6–7 (NIV)

- 6 Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.
- 7 Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Next Time:

September 2025 Series Summary: The Basics Part 1

The Power of Hunger (What do you really want?)



The Power of What you Believe (What do you really believe?)

The Power of Who You Let In Your Life (Who has or is influencing you?)

The Power of What You Plan (Where are you really going?)