**So God changed his mind** (Jonah 3.10)

Many team sports are in two halves – and many a good side when losing at half-time can adapt to win.

Two things a great leader needs to be: able to focus on an overall strategy, able to adapt.

Peter wanted to share the gospel to Jews, but through Cornelius adapted to include gentiles.

Unlike Jonah, who neither agreed with God’s overall strategy, nor the adaption, when TEXT.

[1] 1.3: **Jonah, however, set out in the opposite direction in order to get away from the Lord**.

Jonah disagreed with God’s message, or felt the call was too intrusive, or would be hard to implement.

Is that us? How often do we rail against God’s call?

We are looking for a Kids Klub Co-ordinator – and you all say “Not me”, and with all ‘good’ reason.

But… Often we don’t like what God says, too intrusive, too hard. We are in the good company of Jonah!

[2] 3.4: **In 40 days Nineveh will be destroyed!**

Jonah shared the horrible message, maybe took some perverse pleasure from it!

We find it hard to share our much more positive message – maybe a negative message would be easier?

Everyone responds to bad news, but good news sells no papers.

[3] 4.1: **Jonah was very unhappy about *[God changing his mind]* and became angry.**

Jonah was upset that he looked stupid – even though no hint that the people thought him so.

Often are we upset when God does not act as we want – when we are ill, or want good weather for holidays.

What was God’s plan? To destroy Nineveh? Or seek Nineveh’s repentance? TEXT.

Jonah probably thought Nineveh deserved God’s destruction; after all God is for the Jews alone. We too might think that about our community or world.

What was important to God is not our status, but whether or not we admit our errors and want to change; whether we take to heart God’s message and respond. That is true for life-long Christians and those who have never been inside a church.