

“Do not labor for the food
which perishes, but for
the food which endures
to everlasting life, which
the Son of Man will give
you...” – John 6:27



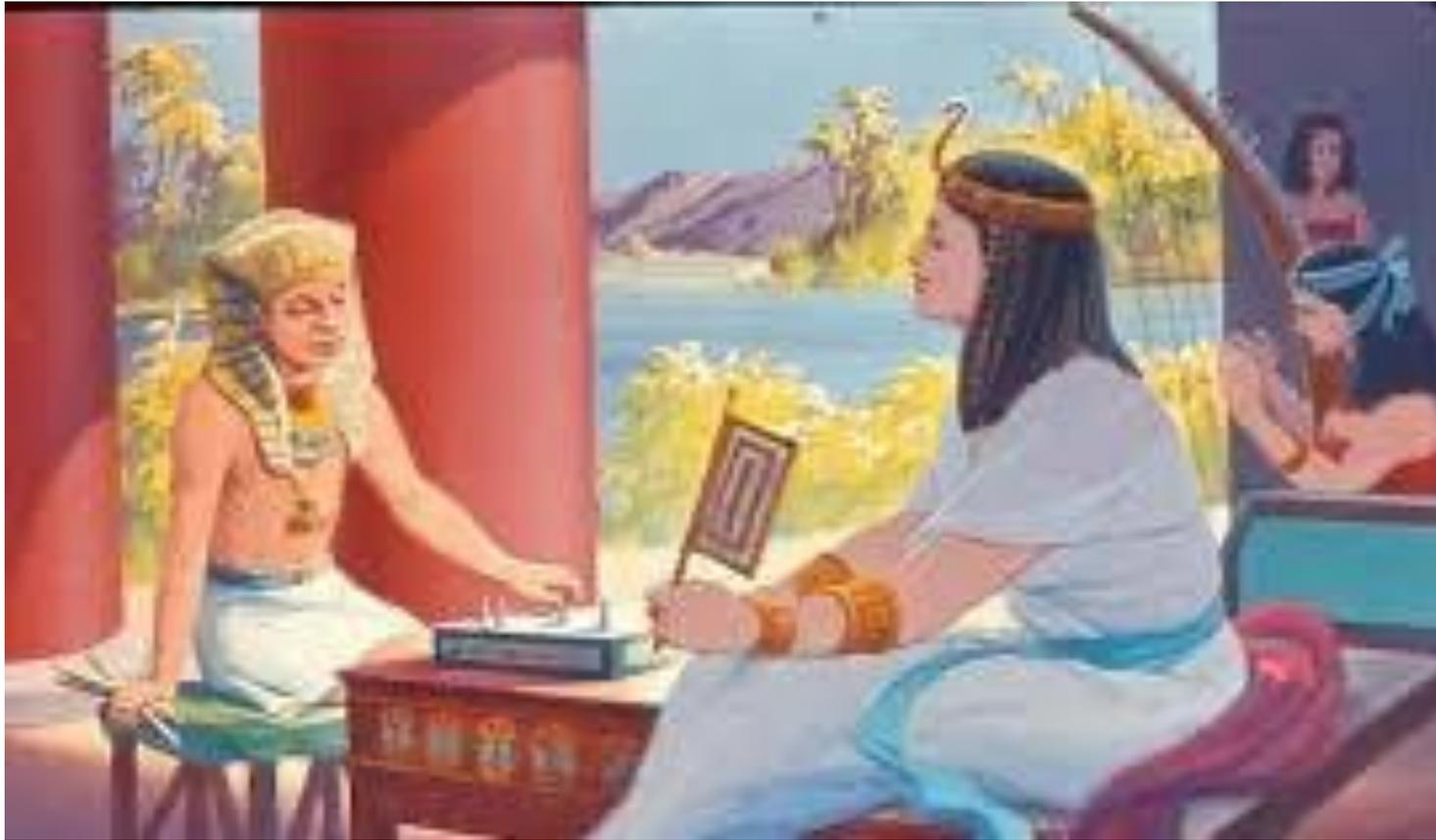


JONAH

RELUCTANT MISSIONARY

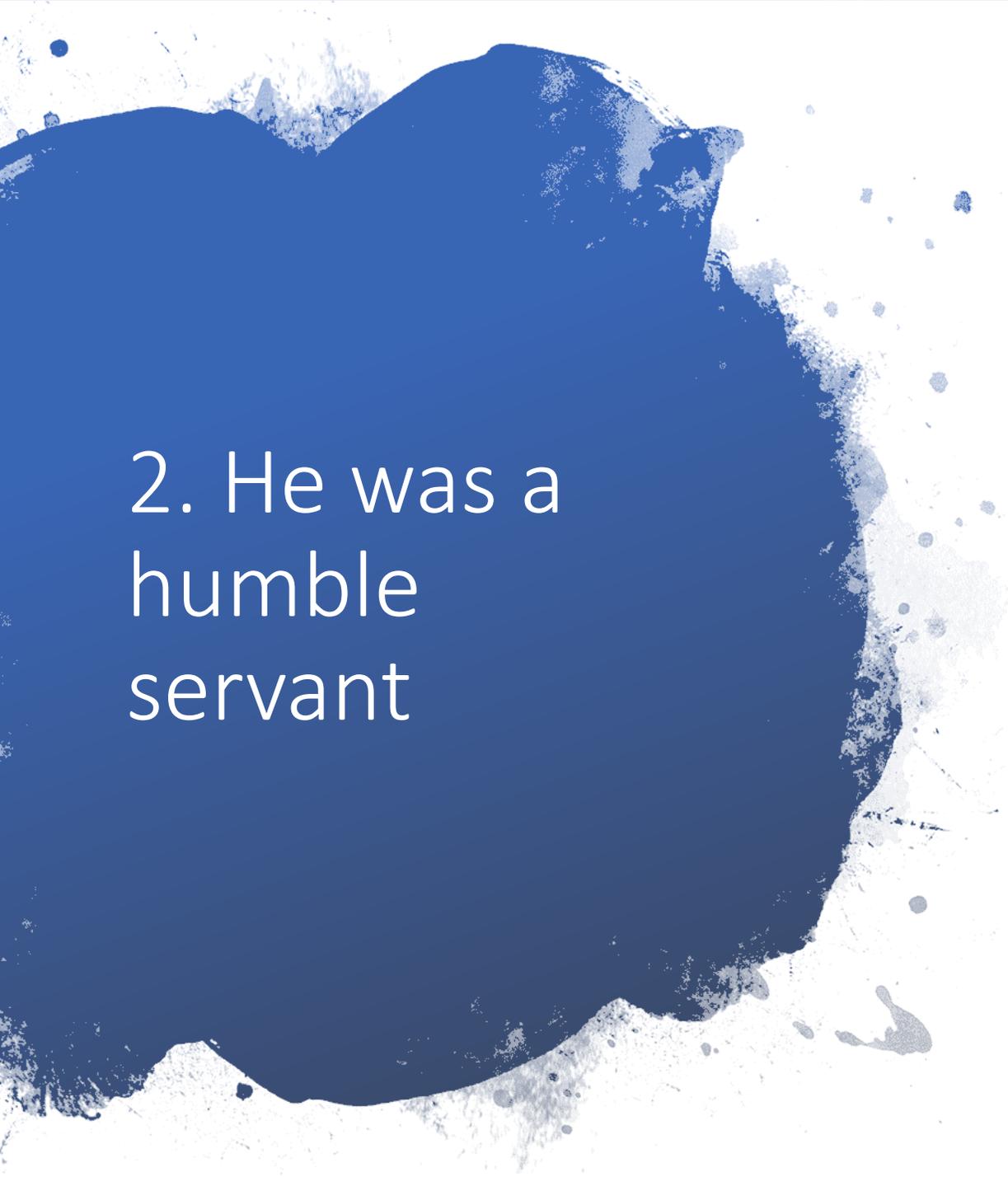
Why Jonah?

“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it...” – Jonah 1:2



1. He was qualified by God

- God chose Jonah for this mission; thus, He must have found him capable
- EX: Moses
- “And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.” (Acts 7:22)



2. He was a
humble
servant

- He spoke of his deficiencies
- He minimized his role or part in the mission
- He does not mention his response

3. Jonah was honest with himself and God

- **Then God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?” And he said, “It is right for me to be angry, even to death!”** (Jon. 4:9)
- *“How can you draw close to God when you are far from your own self? Grant Lord, that I may know myself so that I may know You.”* (St. Augustine)
- *“He who knows himself knows God.”* (St. Anthony)



4. To show that God is able to transform our mistakes into salvation



- The Sailors
 - **“Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord and took vows.”** (Jon. 1:16)
- EX: Philemon and Onesimus

5. Our healing comes through our obedience

- Jonah had a problem with loyalty and love for people
- EX: Man Born Blind
- If humanity's sickness (sin) came by disobedience, it is to be restored by obedience to God once more.





6. Perhaps because Jonah reflects the attitudes of so many believers

- We bottle up the blessings for ourselves
- Nineveh
- **“But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.” (Jon. 3:8)**