

Jonah: Man On The Run

Jonah 1:1-17

Introduction

I God Commissioned Jonah To Preach

- A. God cared about the unbelievers in Nineveh
 - 1. He **initiated** a plan to reach them - Jn 3:16; Ro 5:8
 - 2. He chose a **messenger** - Rom 10:14-15
- B. God sent Jonah as His ambassador
 - 1. "**Go** to Nineveh" - Matt 28:19-20
 - 2. "**Preach** against it" - 2 Cor 2:15-16
- C. God's heart was moved to action
 - 1. It's **wickedness** came before Him - Gen 18:20-21

II Jonah Rejected God's Commission

- A. Jonah **ran** away from the Lord - Ps 139:7-9
 - 1. He went down to Joppa
 - 2. He found a ship sailing to Tarshish
 - 3. He paid his fare and boarded

III God Pursued Jonah

- A. Through **natural** elements
 - 1. God sent great wind - Ps 135:7
 - 2. God sent a violent storm - Mk 4:37
- B. Through **unbelieving** sailors
 - 1. They were afraid
 - 2. They cried out to their gods
 - 3. They jettisoned cargo
 - a. Meanwhile, Jonah **slept** below
 - 4. The captain called Jonah to action - Matt 4:38
 - a. "Get up and call on your god!"
 - b. "Maybe He will save us from death"
 - 5. They identified Jonah as the cause
 - a. Jonah identified as a Hebrew - Gen 14:13
 - b. Jonah identified as a **worshipper** of God
 - c. Jonah identified the solution
 - 1. "Throw me in the sea" - Lev 24:10-16

- 6. They responded in a godly way - Rom 2:14-15
 - a. They treated Jonah with **compassion**
- 7. They **acknowledged** God's judgment - Ps 135:6
 - a. Jonah was thrown overboard
- 8. They witnessed the calming of the sea - Mt 8:27
 - a. They greatly **feared** the Lord
 - b. They offered a sacrifice to the Lord
 - c. They made **vows** to the Lord
- C. Through a great **fish**
 - 1. The fish was **provided** by God
 - 2. The fish was **obedient** to God
 - a. It swallowed Jonah for 3 days and nights
Mt 12:39-41

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Share a time when you "ran away" from God - refusing to do something you know He was telling you to do? What happened? What "storms" brought you back?
2. Do you think that Jonah was aware of the problems his decision would cause other people? Do you think he cared? Are you at all like Jonah in this respect?
3. Can one person's sin in the church affect the rest of the body? Why/why not? [Support your answer with scripture]
4. What is your personal "Nineveh"? A difficult person? A frustrating situation? What attitudes may be preventing you from sharing the gospel with unbelievers who God loves?
5. What are the consequences of not sharing your faith with unbelievers (both for yourself and others)?
6. Ask God to give you His heart for unbelievers and for opportunities this week to share the Good News!

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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