



We're More Like Jonah than we Want to Admit

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

July 14, 2019

*The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."
But Jonah ran away from the Lord – Jonah 1:1-3*

A Little Background of Jonah

The Great Themes of the Book of Jonah ...

- The _____ of God to Jonah, the pagan sailors, & the Ninevites.
- The _____ of God & how we respond to it.
- The _____ of God & how to share it w/others.
- The _____ of God & how to obey it.
- The _____ God & His greatest revival ever.
- The _____ of God over plant life, animal life, the elements, & the most stubborn of all...man!

An Invitation Considered ... Jonah 1:1-3

- I. The _____ God Gave – vs. 1-2
- II. The _____ God Chose – vs. 3
- III. The _____ Jonah Took – vs. 3
- IV. The Elephant in the Room ... How Far will God _____
_____?

Let's Consider ...

- I. Every Step Away from God is a _____
- II. We may _____ Quickly, but _____ will
always be Slow.
- III. Satan Can work through _____ just like
God Can.

Truth for Life

For the week of July 14, 2019

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Has there ever been a time when you knew you chose another path than God had planned for you? What happened? Share what you are comfortable sharing.

What are some of the reasons people run from God or avoid His plan today?

2. Having compassion means we are sympathetic and willing to step in and help others in their pain or struggles. Jonah didn't have compassion for the Ninevites and he probably had a list of reasons why he shouldn't. Can you identify any influences from your past or present that have either grown or diminished your compassion for others?
3. When you think of the life of Moses you might remember him as a phenomenal leader, but when you read about his first steps with God, they look a little like Jonah's. While he didn't run from God, he sure did try to talk himself out of following God's direction. Read the following passages and in your own words, list each of Moses' excuses along with God's response to each one.

Exodus 3:11-12 Exodus 4:1-5 Exodus 4:10-11 Exodus 4:13-16

Jesus gave each one of us the mission of following Him and being "salt & light" to the world around us. In response to that calling, can you relate with any of Moses' excuses?

Do any of God's responses to Moses give you hope or courage in your calling?

4. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.
 - a. The needs are so many and my time and resources so few. How can I know where to be involved?
 - b. We all have many luxuries. How can we know how much we should give toward missions?
 - c. Do missionaries need a special "calling" or are we all called to take the gospel to every people?
 - d. How can we fight apathy and develop God's heart of compassion toward the lost?



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A Little Background of Jonah

The Great Themes of the Book of Jonah ...

- The **Grace** of God to Jonah, the pagan sailors, & the Ninevites.
- The **Will** of God & how we respond to it.
- The **Love** of God & how to share it w/others.
- The **Word** of God & how to obey it.
- The **Missionary** God & His greatest revival ever.
- The **Sovereignty** of God over plant life, animal life, the elements, & the most stubborn of all...man!

An Invitation Considered ... Jonah 1:1-3

- I. The **Call** God Gave – vs. 1-2
- II. The **Man** God Chose – vs. 3
- III. The **Path** Jonah Took – vs. 3
- IV. The Elephant in the Room ... How Far will God **allow a man to Run**?

Let's Consider ...

- I. Every Step Away from God is a **Downward Step**
- II. We may **Get away** Quickly, but **Recovery** will always be Slow.
- III. Satan Can work through **Circumstances** just like God Can.

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1. Has there ever been a time when you knew you chose another path than God had planned for you? What happened? Share what you are comfortable sharing.

What are some of the reasons people run from God or avoid His plan today?

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