

Message Series:

God, You Want Me to Do What?
A Study on the Minor Prophets
Jonah, Hosea, Micah, and Haggai
Stepping Up and Going Out for God
September 13, 2009

Today's Message:

Running Away from Missional Living

Jonah 1:1-3

¹Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,
²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” ³But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

Today's Main Thought: Jonah running way from God's call on his life

Missional Living: *Intentional Godly living for the purpose of making God look great, drawing those in need of His love to Himself.*

Jonah ran away from...

God's direct call to go and preach to Nineveh

Messy Ministry

- **People or situations which present difficulties, v.2; 4:11**
- **People or situations we have deemed dangerous, Nahum 3:1-4**
- **People whom we have prejudice against and declare unredeemable, v. 3; 4:1-3**

Getting Started: Read the book of Jonah. Jonah was a reluctant prophet given a mission he found distasteful. He chose to run away from God rather than obey him. Like Jonah, we may have to do things in life that we don't want to do. Sometimes we find ourselves wanting to turn and run. But it is better to obey God than to defy him or runaway. Often, in spite of our defiance, God in his mercy will give us another chance to serve him when we return to him.

Digging Deeper: 1) What seems both fitting and surprising about God's command (v.2)? 2) Jonah runs away in response to God's call. How does that compare to how other prophets responded (see 1Kings 17:1-6; Jeremiah 1:4-10)?

Living It Out: Pinpoint a Nineveh in your life; perhaps it is a difficult person; an unfriendly place; an unpleasant task; or an unresolved situation. Now that your Nineveh has been identified, spend time this week asking Jesus for wisdom, clarity, and strength to deal with the Nineveh in your life.

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Next Week: #2 in series
Jonah 1:4-chapter 2