

This week...

Monday Jonah 1:1-3 *“The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: ‘Go to the great (insolent, older) city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness (calamity, distress, wretchedness) has come up before me.’ But Jonah ran away (bolted) from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD”*

Do these verses have any application to life and ministry today? What might that be? Hint: *Find passages in the New Testament where people of God are instructed to go and preach to sinful people.* Have you ever “run away” from a task God gave you? How did that make you feel?

Tuesday Jonah 1:4-5 *“Then the LORD sent a great wind (hurricane, tempest, whirlwind) on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up (burst). All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep.”*

What purpose did the great wind serve? What are some ways you can think of that God gets our attention? After God has your attention, are you prone to obey, bargain, or “lay down to sleep” in the hopes that God will move on and leave you alone?

Wednesday Jonah 1:6-11 *“The captain went to him and said, ‘How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us, and we will not perish.’ Then the sailors said to each other, ‘Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.’ They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. So they asked him, ‘Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?’ He answered, ‘I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God*

of heaven, who made the sea and the land.’ This terrified them and they asked, ‘What have you done?’ (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.) The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, ‘What should we do to you to make the sea calm down (subside, cease, be quiet) for us?’

Does it seem odd that non-believers confronted Jonah about his disobedience to his God and his attempt to run away? Can you think of any contemporary events where non-believers suddenly became interested in God and welcomed Him, His followers, and His message into their lives? Why do you think that is?

Thursday Jonah 1:14-16 *“ Then they cried to the LORD, “O LORD, please do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, O LORD, have done as you pleased.” Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging (angry, indignant, wrathful) sea grew calm. At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.”*

Does this passage give you any thoughts or ideas concerning the witness of believers and how folks are transformed?

Friday Jonah 4:10-11 *“But the LORD said, ‘You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?’”*

How would you describe your priorities? What are some ways our church might become more “concerned with the vine” than with people who are unable to “tell their right hand from their left”? What would be the remedy so our priorities align with those of God?