



JONAH

JONAH FLEES.

Jonah is one of the oddest books in the Bible. Everyone in the book is obedient to God except the preacher. Awkward.

You might think you can get away from God and skirt His plans, but Jonah shows that is not the case. When God wants something to be done, He can be, uh... *very* persuasive.

So what does God want to be done? He wants us to spread the gospel and make disciples! He wants us to live lives that glorify Him while we love him and love others. Jonah's prejudices kept him from following God's plan from the beginning. He did not want to be used in the way God wanted to use him. So he fled. He disobeyed. And even still, God wanted to use Jonah.

God wants to use you too. Do you believe that?

Do you want to be used?

IN THE BIBLE.

Jonah 1:1-16

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 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.

Hebrews 11:13-16

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

QUESTIONS.

- 1.) Do you believe you can be used by God? Why or why not?
- 2.) Have you ever felt a “nudge” from God to do something or talk to someone? Did you listen and obey? What happened?
- 3.) What if God calls you to something uncomfortable or downright horrible? What can you start doing now to prepare your heart and mind to listen and obey then?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?