

“You Cannot Run Away from God”

Jonah 1:1-3

Introduction

- I. Many people know at least a little about Jonah.
- II. What some may not realize is that there is more to learn than just what many know.
- III. Jonah was commanded to do something, and he tried to run from God (no one can truly run away from God).

Discussion

- I. We can never run away from God's presence.
 - A. Jonah did not like the responsibility of going to preach to those in Nineveh.
 - B. He tried to flee to Tarshish, but he could not escape God's presence.
 - C. Today, we cannot escape the presence of God, even if some deny Him (Job. 34:21; Psm. 127:10; 139:7; Prov. 15:3; Jer. 23:24).
- II. We can never run away from the God's purpose.
 - A. Jonah's mission was to go and preach to the Ninevites.
 - B. Nineveh was known for it's wickedness and sin, and Jonah did not want them saved (Jonah 4:1-3).
 - C. There are some today that do not want to fulfill God's purpose (Matt. 25:14ff.)
 1. Some would rather allow someone else to do the work (Mark 16:15; John 6:27; Gal. 6:4-5).
 2. We must not allow ourselves to excuse ourselves from God's purpose.
- III. We can never run away from God's persistence.
 - A. Either man does what God wants done, or else he will face the consequences.
 - B. Regardless of Jonah's opinion, God wanted the city of Nineveh to have the opportunity to repent and change (Jonah 4:4; cf. Jonah 2).
 - C. Today, God is still persistent and we should appreciate that He is.
 1. God wants all to be saved (2 Pet. 3:9).
 2. God wants His Word to be preached (2 Tim. 4:2).
 3. God wants all evil defeated (Eph. 6:12-20).

Conclusion

- I. The book of Jonah reminds of that we can never run away from God's presence, God's purpose, and God's persistence.
- II. If we find ourselves trying to run from God, then we need to turn around and go back to Him!