

MISSING THE BOAT: RUNNING FROM GOD'S CALL

Jonah 1:1-3

Outline

Introduction: A Gallup Poll reports that only about half of evangelical Christians even attempt to share their faith with unbelievers. Many Christians ask, "Why is it so hard to share my faith?" What is keeping Christians who know they are commanded to bear witness of Jesus Christ from obeying? Some clear answers can be found in the book of Jonah. The chronicle of his life has many parallels to our times will challenge our thinking about ourselves, our mission field and our God.

Background to the book of Jonah

1. Jonah goes down as the most reluctant preaching prophet God ever called.
2. The city of Nineveh goes down as having a historic reputation of being a most wicked place.
3. God goes down as the most gracious hero of the book of Jonah!

Missing the boat - Jonah 1:1-3

1. Going to Nineveh was God's idea and God's plan. ***vs. 1, The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai.***
2. God gave Jonah three commands. ***vs. 2, Arise, go and cry out.***
3. God took notice of the wickedness of the great city of Nineveh. ***vs. 2, their wickedness has come up before Me.***
4. Jonah made a boat but missed THE boat. ***vs. 3, But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.***
5. Why would God's servant run in the opposite direction?
6. In fleeing Jonah attempted to do the impossible. ***vs. 3, Jonah...paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.***

Conclusion: What's next?