

Who's in charge here ??

JONAH 1

**“Don't worry, I have a plan”**

*Eph 2:10 For we are God's handiwork,  
created in Christ Jesus to do good works,  
which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

*[TNIV]*

*Philip 3:14 I press on toward the goal to win  
the prize for which God has called me  
heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

God rewards right living.

*Jonah 1:1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: 2 "Go to the great city Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." [TNIV]*

**The Call:** Arise, go...

**The Crime:** Not living right >> Wickedness

**The Cry:** Jonah's Message:

*"Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown." Jonah 3:4*

## **God has a plan for your life...**

**Jonah's plan:** "Get Ninevah" – to punish them

**God's plan:** "Get Ninevah" – to recover them

God's plan did not match Jonah's religion,

It didn't fit Jonah's theology...

*Jonah 4:2 ... "Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. [TNIV]*

## God said go, Jonah said no...

Why not go?

- 1] Selective service: If your commander says go and you say No, I'd rather do something else  
are you really even in the army
- 2] Fearsome faith: Faith in failure rather than Faith in the Father;  
Fear is Faith in the wrong things
- 3] Hide and Seek: Distancing myself from the place of responsibility  
thinking I am the no longer responsible  
The attempt just proves I am irresponsible
- 4] I'll do it my way: Blinded by our own brilliance  
My plan must be better than His...
- 5] Strange Change: Fear that the closer you get to God's will the weirder you will get; that you'll go 'strange'

***Luke 15:4 "What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?"***

Notice how God continues to come at you, even when you run:

**Silence:** *Jonah 3:1* Most often God is silent because He's already spoken and we've ignored what He has already said...

**Storms:** *Jonah 1:4* Stuff happens – every thing seems to be going wrong. God sends storms too...

**Saints** There always seems to be another Christian or someone who recognizes you as one just as you are about to do a wrong thing.

**Sinners:** *Jonah 1:6- 8* Asking us the embarrassing questions or those whose actions and attitudes offend us. They reflect our own stubbornness and unrighteousness.

***Jonah 1:8 ... "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?" [TNIV]***

**The world is still asking us the same question !!**

*Jonah 1:9 He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." [TNIV]*

– LIAR !! –

What did Jonah's life say about his words?

*Luk 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say*  
God had to deal with Jonah before He could use Jonah to deal with the sin of Ninevah.

*1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*

When God calls, Arise and go...

*1 Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize?*

*Run in such a way that you may win.*

*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

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