

Here Am I, Send Someone Else - Notes

Jonah 1:1-3

Introduction

God calls particular people to particular places for particular purposes. In Jonah's case, we find God calling him to Nineveh to preach against its sin. But when God called Jonah, he replied, "Here am I... send someone else. I'm on my way to Tarshish!"

A lot of us are on boats that are sailing for Tarshish while God is saying, "GO to Nineveh." Where are you headed? There are really only two roads in the Christian life. One leads to Nineveh, the other to Tarshish. One road is the will of God; the other is disobedience to His will.

Somewhere there is a job for you that no one else can do quite the way you can do it. Each of us is indescribably valuable to God. Each of us has a special part in the body of Christ. No one is unimportant.

I. JONAH'S _____ FROM GOD

The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: "God to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me" (Jonah 1:1-2).

A. God 's Call to Jonah Was _____.

God still speaks to His servants today, and His call is just as personal.

God still calls particular people to particular places for particular purposes — and not just preachers. He calls teachers and lawyers and businesspeople and housewives and bank tellers and scientists if we would but listen. David said that God makes known to us the path of life, and in His presence is fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11). And a good thing to remember is that God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called.

B. God's Call to Jonah Was _____.

The call of the Lord is pointed. God said, "Go to Nineveh." It was a clear call. It was pointed. It was urgent. God did not tell Jonah to go to Jerusalem or Shechem, or Joppa, or anywhere else. His call was to Nineveh, a city founded by Nimrod shortly after the confusion of tongues at the Tower of Babel.

C. God's Call to Jonah Was _____

God's call is purposeful. God instructed Jonah to go to Nineveh and "preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." The Lord is never vague in His call. Jonah was to cry out against the wickedness of Nineveh. What a task God assigned him. He would be one lonely

voice in the midst of that city, calling its people to revival and repentance. Think about that. What could one man do?

II. JONAH'S _____ TO GOD'S CALL

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 (Jonah 1:3).

A. Jonah's Response Was _____

Jonah's fall from the Lord was calculated. What an honor had come to him. God chose him to go to Nineveh with the message of revival. Jonah must have been the most humbled and challenged man in all the land.

B. Jonah's Response Was _____

If we could only learn this simple lesson: No one ever goes up while living in rebellion against God. A lot of people today are fooling themselves. A fall is just what it says it is. People never fall up; they fall down. There is no standing still on the way to Tarshish.

C. Jonah's Response Was _____

Jonah's fall from the Lord was costly. The Bible says that Jonah paid the fare. We pay our own way when we flee from the Lord. Galatians 6:7 says, "Do not be deceived; God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows."

Conclusion

God still calls people today. However, when God called Jonah he answered, "Here I am... send someone else!" Let's be honest. There is a bit of Jonah in all of us. Many of us have heard God's call and have gone the other way, only to find that the fall has been continuous and costly. God still speaks to us today. Despite our rebellion, He stays after us as He did Jonah.

Let none hear you idly saying

There is nothing I can do.

While the souls of men are dying

And the Master calls for You.

Take the task He gives you gladly

Let His quick work your pleasure be;

Answer quickly while He calleth

"Here am I, send me, send me."