

I. When God Chooses His Servant (1)

“Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying...”

Jonah’s father’s name means “loyal, true”. *How ironic!*

GOD CALLS OUT DIVERSE INDIVIDUALS

Genesis 15:4 - “Behold, the word of the Lord came to Abram...” (an old pagan man)

1 Samuel 3:8 - “And the Lord called Samuel again the third time.” (a small consecrated child)

Hosea 1:1 - “The word of the Lord that came to Hosea...” (a man with a dysfunctional marriage)

Jeremiah 1:4 - “Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying...” (an emotional man who never saw a convert)

Micah 1:1 - “The word of the Lord that came to Micah...” (a prophet for social justice)

1 Kings 18:46 - “And the hand of the Lord was on Elijah...” (a zealot who cared so much he wanted to die)

Ezekiel 3:22 - “And the hand of the Lord was upon me there. And He said to me...” (a priest who was a seer)

(Also, the “word of the Lord” is seen to have come to Joel, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, & Malachi)

II. When God Determines His Target (2)

“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before Me.”

1. A calling eventually involves specific directions - “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city...”
2. A calling always communicates God’s expectation - “...and call out against it...”
3. A calling sometimes includes accompanying explanation - “...for their evil has come up before Me.”

III. When God’s Plan Meets Resistance (3)

A. Jonah’s heart was evasive - “But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.”

B. Jonah’s actions were deliberate - “He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish.”

C. Jonah’s commitments were costly - “So he paid the fare and went on board...”

Proverbs 14:12 - “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”

D. Jonah’s plans were illogical - “...to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.”

Psalms 139:7 - “Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?”

E. Jonah’s God is merciful - this is the primary theme of the entire Book of Jonah

Isaiah 65:2-3 - “I spread out My hands all the day to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices; a people who provoke Me to My face continually...”