



Love People Like God Loves People

Jonah 1:1-3

Big Idea: God loves people enough to interrupt our lives to reach them; so, when God calls, we go.

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." ³ But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD. (Jon 1:1-3 ESV)

Big Idea: God loves people enough to interrupt our lives to reach them; so, when God calls, we go.

Love people like God loves people.

1. God's plan interrupts our lives (v. 1).
2. God loves smelly people (v. 2).
3. God loves disobedient believers (vv. 3; 17).

1. God's plan interrupts our lives (vv. 1-2a).

“Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city...”

3 Truths about God's plan:

- i. God's plan happens in God's time.
- ii. God's plan happens with urgency.
- iii. God's plan often interrupts our lives.

3 Steps to know God's plan:

- i. You will have peace about (want to do) it.
- ii. Other Believers will affirm God's plan.
- iii. God's plan will align with Scripture.

2. God loves smelly people (v. 2).

² “[Arise], go to the great city of Nineveh, and give them this announcement from the Lord: ‘I am going to destroy you, for your wickedness rises [and goes to] me; it smells to highest heaven.’” (v. 2 TLB)

God can smell the stink of our sin.

- i. We cannot hide sin from God.
- ii. You can take a gospel shower (Rom 6:23)!
- iii. We can receive forgiveness (1Jn 1:8-10).

God seeks out undeserving sinners (like us) and sends his people (like us) to offer them the gospel (Mt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8).

The stench of sin should wake us up!

- i. Pray to God for smelly people (Rom 9:3).
- ii. Intentionally seek smelly people (Mt 28:19).
- iii. Love smelly people like God loves them (1Jn 4:20).

3. God loves disobedient believers (vv. 3; 17).

“³ But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.”

We must choose to obey God.

- i. Decide to obey God (Lk 9:23).
- ii. Fight to obey God (Rom 7:15f).
- iii. God's love endures (Ex 34:6-7; Jon 4:2).
- iv. We can find forgiveness (1Jn 1:8-10).

Obeying saves us from storms.

- i. Recognize the stink of sin.
- ii. Answer when God calls.
- iii. Love the people God loves.

God didn't give up on Jonah, or
Nineveh. God hasn't given up on you.
Today, don't give up on the people God
loves.