

Escaping the Inescapable

Jonah 1

Why was the book of Jonah Written?

Some say it was written by Jonah during his ministry 800-750 BC.

Some say prophetic circles of his time.

Others say after the destruction of Nineveh in 612 BC.

The truth is that this is speculation. We don't know who.

Was this about the start of his ministry?

We know he was indeed a prophet of God from this time in other Bible ref.

The difficulty of history is that we don't know all the details for sure.

The most important question, however, is why was this book written?

What does God want us to know now and today.

This is a mystery of this book and I'll play it close to the chest
and reveal more week by week.

In fact, I want you to work for it and not take my word for it.

Let's see what the Holy Spirit has in store for us.

The Story of Jonah as an Analogy for a Spiritual Pilgrimage towards God

On the surface, Jonah is about a guy who God calls to do something.

He says no and runs the other way, away from God and away from his purpose.

Eventually he comes around and does the job but is still upset, even at the end.

It is actually a great story.

But it isn't really just about Jonah.

The Bible is never just about the characters of the past.

It is about God, about his people from all times and is about you , me & Jonah.

Jonah in four Acts

Jonah is about us.

It is about every person who ever encounters God.

It is about our relationship with God and our world in a particular way:

1. Running from God
2. The Turn
3. Obedience
4. Invitation

Today, we will study Act 1: Escaping the Inescapable.

Act 1: Escaping the Inescapable: Running from God

Who Runs from God?

Ironically, not a pagan but someone who knows God.

Even the pagans pray before Jonah does.

Why run

Ignorance of God? Jonah's idea of God was too small.

Was this before he became a prophet?

This is his first call to become a prophet.

What is your idea of God?

How big (or small) is he?

How to you conceive of him in your heart and mind?

Why do we Run? ? or hide/avoid.

When was the last time you really listened?

How does our image of God affect the reasons we run?

Because we are afraid?

Because we are comfortable in our own kingdom?

Because we want the benefits of the kingdom without the king?

Where does/faith or trust figure in?

Where does love?

How about for you personally?

How do we run?

And so we begin at the beginning.

Like Jacob we wrestle with God.

It is our Wilderness, our Gethsemane, our Pentecost we deny.

(Sign of Jonah)

Matt 12:37-39

Matt 16:3-5

Luke 11:28-31