

Fishy Business

From inside the fish Jonah prayed...

Jonah 2:1

I'm sure you have heard of the phrase, "between a stone and a hard place." That's kinda where Jonah was at. He ran from the Lord's will. The Lord had asked Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh and to preach against it because there was so much going on that displeased him. But Jonah ran and headed for Tarshish instead. Jonah's running ended when the Lord "provided a great fish to swallow" him. Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. Chapter two of Jonah begins with the verse above.

Have you ever run from the Lord's purpose for your life? Our Father will ask us to do things that are uncomfortable. I remember the first time I was asked to give a testimony in church. I remember the first time I knew the Lord wanted me to pray out loud in a group. I remember the first time I preached on a street corner in Princeton. I remember when the Lord told me I needed to go to an individual and make restitution. All of these had a similar response from me at first... "NO!" Then came the fish. God's little provision to motivate me to do His will.

Have you ever felt trapped? Have you ever felt stuck? Maybe the Lord is trying to tell you something. It could be the Father's little provision to motivate you to do what He has asked you to do.

Have you ever had an uncomfortable feeling in your spirit that would not go away? Have you every had a continuing thought that kept nagging at your conscience? Maybe the Lord is motivating you to move in His direction and do as He has asked.

Jonah was probably hurt by the people of Nineveh. He did not like them. He did not want to preach to them and he did not want to see them repent (and they did). Are there folks that you would just rather not talk to? Jesus loves the world. He was sent so that we all could reconcile with the Father. Now, we have been given the ministry of reconciliation (II Corinthians 5:18).

One day, on the job, the Lord spoke to me and said that He wanted me to share the Gospel with a guy who no one liked. I had a hard time with him too, but the nagging feeling from the Holy Spirit would not let up until I gave him the truth. After a while the man gave his life to Christ and changed! Once the Lord spoke to me about going to an adult book store and telling those trapped in addiction about His love. I laughed. But the Holy Spirit was serious and I went. He gave me a plan and for a whole year I developed a team and we witnessed God's amazing grace change many lives. Who does the Lord want you to give the good-news to? You may want to run or try to ignore the call but you are just going to get more motivation. God will provide a fish. If you're there, it's time to repent from inside your fish and say yes to God. Why spend another day entangled in seaweed in the deep?