

Jonah: The Reluctant Man on Mission

Jonah 3: The _____ Man on Mission!

Jonah 3:1-3a Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: 2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message that I give you.” 3 This time Jonah got up and went to Nineveh, in accordance with the word of the LORD.

→ *We serve a God of Second Chances!*

Jonah 3:3b-5 Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, requiring a three-day journey. 4 On the first day of his journey, Jonah set out into the city and proclaimed, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned!” 5 And the Ninevites believed God. They proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least.

TWO REASONS WHY JONAH’S MESSAGE SHOULD HAVE BEEN LOST IN NINEVEH:

1. He was _____ of those he was preaching to, so he should have softened his message.

John Wesley: “Give me 100 preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergy or laymen, such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of Heaven on earth.” John C. Maxwell, *Partners in Prayer*, p.7.

2. He was _____ from those he was preaching to, so his message literally could have been lost in translation:
 - a. Foreign language (communication)
 - b. Foreign race (prejudices)
 - c. Foreign culture (barriers)
 - d. Foreign religious experience (unfamiliarity)

Barbara Spencer: “When the whale vomited Jonah onto the shore, he would have been bleached an unhuman greeny-white” “The story of Jonah and the Yanush legend,” p.261.

Henry Morris: “Another suggestion has been that Jonah was believed to be a reincarnation of a legendary man-fish named Yanush (somewhat similar phonetically to Jonah) who in the very early history of Assyria had appeared out of the sea” *The Remarkable Journey of Jonah*, p.101.

→ *God will use literally any means to reach the lost!*

→ **Anything _____ must be _____!**

HOW TO SHARE YOUR FAITH EFFECTIVELY:

1. Speak with _____

Jonah 3:2 “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it *the message that I give you.*”

2. Speak with _____

Jonah 3:3-4 This time Jonah got up *and went to Nineveh*, in accordance with the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, requiring a three-day journey. 4 On the first day of his journey, *Jonah set out into the city and proclaimed ...*

3. Speak with _____

Jonah 3:4 “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned!”

4. Speak with _____

Jonah 3:4 “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned!”

Q: What one thing was missing from Jonah’s message? _____

James Emery White: “We say we want them in Heaven, but we act like they can go to hell” *The Rise of the Nones*, p.84.

Jonah 3:5-10 *And the Ninevites believed God. They proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least. 6 When word reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, took off his royal robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh: ‘By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let no man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything at all. They must not eat or drink. 8 Furthermore, let both man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and have everyone call out earnestly to God. Let each one turn from his evil ways and from the violence in his hands. 9 Who knows? God may turn and relent; He may turn from His fierce anger, so that we will not perish.’ When God saw their actions—that they had turned from their evil ways—He relented from the disaster He had threatened to bring upon them.*

→ ***Repentance only works when applied – whether we are a pagan or a prophet!***