

Week of July 21

Jonah 4:1-3

In response to the people of Nineveh repenting and turning to God we find Jonah praying in these first verses of Jonah 4...

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³ Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

The God of the universe had a mission for Jonah and he went reluctantly. Not wanting any part of God's plan for redeeming Nineveh. Jonah's logic is not too far fetched, "God, don't disturb me from the comforts of my home. Your plans will be done with or without me." The failure in Jonah's logic was that Nineveh WOULDN'T be delivered without Jonah. Jonah failed to see that his involvement was necessary and that he was an integral part of God's plan. Jonah was destined to deliver the news of God's salvation to the people of Nineveh.

Things get pretty comfortable in our lives. We don't want to be disturbed. We like the ebb and flow of "normalcy". God calls us out of our happy homes, out of our normal routines, out of the "known" and into His plan. That gets pretty uncomfortable and if we go, we typically go kicking and screaming as did Jonah. We are an integral part of God's plan. We can be His voice to a dying world. We can be His hands to hurting people. We can be His hope to the suffering.

If we go.

Prayer

God, thank you for considering me worthy to be your voice in our world. Thank you for empowering me to be your hands to a hurting world. Thank

you for Your Words in my heart to deliver to those who need to hear of your love and deliverance and redemption. Give me the strength to say, "Yes."
Give me the strength to leave complacency for adventure. Give me the fortitude to press on in the face of adversity. Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Amen.