

January 19, 2020

A Man Who Tried to Run from God

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
P.O. Box 683
Olney, IL 62450
217-218-0803
www.olneychurchofchrist.org

Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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Elders: Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

Deacons: John Frost, Dave Goff,
Roger Sholders

Visitors are welcome

We offer Bible classes for all ages

We also offer in-home Bible studies

We have Bible lessons on the radio
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

The book of Jonah contains one of the most well-known accounts of the Old Testament. Jonah, a prophet from Israel (**2 Kings 14:25**), was told by God to prophesy against Nineveh, the capital of Israel's *enemy*, Assyria (**Jonah 1:2**).

Instead of obeying, Jonah tried to run from God's presence (**Jonah 1:3**). God then stirred up a great storm that rocked the ship Jonah was in (**Jonah 1:4**).

After discovering that Jonah was the cause of a storm they could not row against, the mariners on the ship threw Jonah overboard (**Jonah 1:15**). Instead of letting Jonah drown, God prepared a fish that swallowed Jonah (**Jonah 1:17**).

Jonah spent three days and three nights in the fish's belly, during which time he offered a prayer of thanksgiving to God (**Jonah 2:1-9**). Following this, the LORD caused the fish to vomit Jonah up onto dry land (**Jonah 2:10**).

Jonah was again told by God to prophesy against Nineveh (**Jonah 3:2**), and *this* time, Jonah did so (**Jonah 3:3**).

Upon hearing Jonah's message, Nineveh was *repentant* (**Jonah 3:4-9**). In turn, God spared them (**Jonah 3:10**).

Jonah was angry that Nineveh was shown mercy, and used this to try to justify his selfish attitude (**Jonah 4:1-3**). God then used a plant to try to teach Jonah about mercy (**Jonah 4:4-11**).

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(Continued)

The account of Jonah teaches a number of key principles about God and His dealings with mankind. For instance:

We Cannot Hide from God: Though Jonah attempted to flee from God's presence (**Jonah 1:3, 10**), he learned that all such attempts are *futile*.

Hebrews 4:13 teaches "***There is no creature that is hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account.***"

God knew where Jonah was at all times. The same is true today. The Great Judge sees all that we think, say, and do. There is no hiding from Him.

We Must Not Run from Responsibility: The reason Jonah attempted to run from God's presence is because God gave Jonah a task he did not want to do.

Jonah learned, as we must, that we cannot brush the work God has given us aside and expect that such will relieve us of our duties.

God's Word commands a number of things that may push us out of our comfort zone, require us to let go of things we like, or upset family and friends.

Trying to avoid such things is futile. Those who do so will answer to our Ruler on the Day of Judgment (**2 Cor. 5:10**).

God is Merciful: Though God's wrath against sin is severe, He does not *want* any of us to face His wrath. Rather, He wants us to accept His terms for salvation. This principle is exemplified in the book of Jonah. God *really* would have overthrown Nineveh in forty days had the city not repented (**Jonah 3:4**), but such was not His *desire*.

His mercy toward the *Gentile* city of Nineveh at a time the Law of Moses was in effect further shows His loving concern for *all* people, and His desire for *each one* of us to come to Him on His terms (**1 Tim. 2:3-4; 2 Pet. 3:9**).

Others' Obedience is Cause for Rejoicing: Jonah exemplified a strange case of a preacher being upset when listeners heeded his message. Given Israel's poor relationship with Assyria, it's likely that such was due to his prejudice against Nineveh. Jonah was thankful when God showed mercy to *him* (**Jonah 2:2-9**), but he did not want such mercy shown toward those in Nineveh.

Instead of this attitude, we should be *joyful* when others turn to God and receive spiritual blessings (cf. **Luke 15**).

These are among the many truths taught in the book of Jonah. May we learn from such truths (**Rom. 15:4**).

-Michael Hickox

Area Gospel Meetings

Hazel Dell Church of Christ:

Jan. 24 – 26 (with Ray Warfel, Jr.)
Fri-Sat: 7:00 PM; Sun: 9:30; 10:30; 5:00

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God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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Words to Consider

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." – John 14:2

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." – John 14:27

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Betty P
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Allen S (Cancer)
Raymond & Maxine
Randy & Kim S
Ken & Chris F
Brandon O's Grandmother (Lung Cancer)
June's Niece, Debbie
Roger H (Heart Surgery)
Berlyn & Guyla Y
Jeanette's Mother, Fontella
Jerry S (Prostate Cancer)

Daily Bible Reading

January 19 – Genesis 36-38; Matt. 10:21-42
January 20 – Genesis 39-40; Matt. 11
January 21 – Genesis 41-42; Matt. 12:1-23
January 22 – Genesis 43-45; Matt. 12:24-50
January 23 – Genesis 46-48; Matt. 13:1-30
January 24 – Genesis 49-50; Matt. 13:31-58
January 25 – Exodus 1-3; Matt. 14:1-21

"And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved."
– Psalm 119:47

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, January 19, 2020

Bible Study: Roger

Worship: Mike

Evening: Jeff

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

Jim

Clean Building

Jeanette

Prepare Communion

Jeanette

Upcoming Reminders

Jan. 25: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Study: Women of the New Testament

Assignments

Sunday, January 26, 2020

Reading: Jeff

Announcements: Steve

Table: Larry

Serve: Harold

Travis

Darrell

Roger

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Invitation: Larry

Anniversaries

Birthdays

February 2 – Travis

February 8 – Betty

February 13 – Darrell

February 15 – Dan D