

Mission Impossible! Jonah 1 - 4

Intro:

I. The Mission - (Take 1 and 2!) 1:1-2; 3:1-3

- A. It was clearly defined
 - 1. Go! - 1:2; 3:2
 - 2. Call out against it!
- B. But, it was very difficult
 - 1. Hard trip: 500 miles, about one month of travel time.
 - 2. Huge city: Capital city of Assyria. (Present day Mosul, Iraq) Likely a minimum of 600,000 people. 1:2a
 - 3. Harsh people: Humanly speaking this was a suicide mission! Extremely wicked and cruel. 1:2b
 - 4. Hated people: Enemies of Israel.

II. The Missionary - 3:3a

- A. Initial call - rejects and runs! - 1:1-17
 - 1. Tarsus was over 2,000 miles in the exact opposite direction!
 - 2. Jonah would rather die than obey! - 1:11-12
- B. Second call - wet but willing! - chapter 2 - 3:3

III. The Message - 3:4

Just eight words (5 in Hebrew) Yet the people understood!

- A. A call to repentance. Forsake your sin!
To repent means:
 - 1. OT "*shub*" = to turn from evil and turn to good.
 - 2. NT "*metanoia*" = To change one's mind.
It is the idea of one changing their life direction by turning away from their sinfulness, and all that goes with it, to worshipping and serving God.
 - 3. Agreeing with God!
 And it must have included . . . (Acts 24:25)
- B. A call to righteousness and self-control.
- C. A call to recognize the coming judgement of God.

IV. The Miracle 3:5-9

- A. The people's response:
 - 1. They believed - 3:5a
 - 2. They fasted - 3:5b A sign of brokenness and humility
- B. The king's response:
 - 1. Personal humility - 3:6
 - 2. National revival - 3:7-10

V. The Mercy of God - 3:10

- A. God pursues sinful people
- B. God pardons repentant people - 10

VI. The Madness of Jonah - 4

- A. Jonah in melt-down mode - 4:1-3
His anger was:
 - 1. Directional - towards God! - 4:1-2
 - 2. Emotional - towards the Assyrians.
 - 3. Carnal and irrational - the worst prayer of his life! - 4:3,8-9
- B. God in Mercy-mode! 4:4-11
 - 1. A question asked by God - 4:4-9
One simple question: "*Do you do well to be angry?*"
NIV— "*Do you have any right to be angry?*"
 - 2. An object lesson directed by God - 4:5-10
 - 3. A comparison made by God - 4:10-11

Conclusion/application:

1. When it comes to the Great Commission "Go", are you obeying? Running? Simply not paying attention?
2. There is nothing easy about "The Mission"! (Great Commission)
To respond is to redirect your entire life!
3. The "Missions Model" has not changed! God always uses people to reach people.
4. God has no delight in judging sinners! He delights in rescue! Any "first responders" ready to step up and out?