

The Book of Jonah and Our Mission to an Ungodly Nation

INTRODUCTION

Nineveh was a city where wickedness was rampant. Although we do not have all the details of what went on in the city, it is enough to see that God's patience toward the city was wearing thin. Therefore He sent Jonah to warn the people of Nineveh about the destruction that was headed their way because of their wickedness. Our nation at this time in history is also full of wickedness. The stench of abortion makes our nation an abomination to the Lord. His patience remain for our nation. Like Jonah we have a mission to warn people of the consequences of their sins so that they will forsake their evil ways and turn to God. In many ways we can see how our mission as Christians is much like the mission of Jonah.

PART I REACTION TO GOD'S MISSION FOR US

Read Jonah, chapter 1:

Put yourself in Jonah's shoes. What would be some reasons why you would not want to obey God's command to go to Nineveh?

How would you argue against each of these objections if Jonah had used them?

What is our mission toward those who promote and defend and do abortions according to the following passages?

Ezekiel 3:15-21

Matthew 5:13-16

What are ways we can carry out this mission?

What are reasons that are often given for not doing anything to warn those who defend and commit abortion?

PART II REPENTANCE FOR AVOIDING OUR MISSION

Read Chapter 2

What finally led Jonah to see his sin in running away from his mission? How did he react when he was in the belly of the whale?

Something to think about: Is it possible that God is trying to wake you up to the fact that you are running away from your mission to those caught up in the sin of abortion?

Perhaps for this and our many other times we are not living as lights in this world, we too need to spend some time in prayer, repenting of our sins and recommitting ourselves to showing forth God's light to others.

PART III FACING THE IMPOSSIBLE

Read Chapter 3

Again putting yourself in Jonah's shoes, why do you think the people of Nineveh would not listen to you? What are the odds of the whole city listening to you and repenting of their sins? How was Jonah's message able to have such an effect upon the people of Nineveh? How can you apply this to the situation in our nation?

PART IV FORGIVENESS

Read Chapter 4

Why was Jonah upset when the people of Nineveh repented?

What message was God trying to get across to Jonah with the vine that withered?

How should we feel toward those who have committed this horrendous sin of abortion or even committed many abortions and now repent of their sins?

Something to think about: How do you react toward those who have committed some terrible sins and are now a part of your church?