

January 22, 2012 Jonah 3:1-5, 10 and Mark 1:14-20 Sermon Notes

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts and minds be acceptable to you, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen

Q: What is the one thing you'd be asked to do that you would absolutely refuse to do?

Example: Child who sits at the table and refuses to eat certain food; story heard recently about someone refusing to eat hamburger as a kid. Liked them, but didn't want to be told to eat; had to eat a cold hamburger and now can't eat them.

Example: A task at work that you don't agree with b/c consider unethical or not a good decision, etc.

Q: What about if the reason you refuse the task is because you don't feel qualified or because you're scared to do the task?

Example: Jonah and his call to deliver message to Nineveh; his attempt to run away from God. You see how well that worked for Jonah!

Q: What would make you jump up and leave everything at the spur of the moment?

Example: Free trip around the world for a year of travel

Example: A job offer/opportunity that you never thought you'd receive

Example: A marriage proposal that you thought would never happen after being single for a long time

Example: How about a carpenter/preacher who tells you the kingdom of God has come near and that you should follow him? Jesus to Simon and Andrew and then to James and John – heck, they even leave their father Zebedee in the boat!

Immediately – there it is! Talked about the urgency in the gospel of Mark a few weeks ago

Maybe they were ready to go b/c finally, a teacher picked them; a big deal for a rabbi to pick someone to study/learn from them, so already happened – these are the benchwarmers, the second string (or third string) players – and Jesus picks them!

Q: What would be so compelling that it would draw people to new life?

Christ's call to us – no matter who we are or how low on the totem pole of life we are – Jesus picks us to follow him!

The God of Jonah and the God of the disciples is the God that calls out to you to follow him and to share that good news in our daily lives.

May God's peace be with you as you are called to share the hope of a Savior who loves us – even the unqualified, the unworthy and those who are ignored – all of us – Jesus invites *you* to follow him.

Helpful Resources (images)

- Black Hills southern text study group
- Prof. David Lose from Luther Seminary on WorkingPreacher.com