

Don't Be A Jonah

Jonah was a prophet in the Old Testament who God called to go and preach to Nineveh, which was a wicked, sinFULL, city. Jonah had no desire to go to them because in his mind they didn't deserve to hear God's word. Jonah was given God's message, but he didn't have God's heart for the people he was called to minister to.

I've been guilty of having this kind of attitude. I haven't always had a heart to minister to some of the ones that He has sent me to. In my mind, they were too far gone to be changed and really if I'm honest, I don't know that I wanted them to change. This is the same attitude that Jonah had toward Nineveh.

God told Jonah to go and preach to Nineveh. To avoid God's call, Jonah headed in the opposite direction (which proves that doing is not the same as obeying) and eventually found himself in the belly of a big, stinky, fish. Isn't it amazing how a stinky situation can cause you to cry out to God? Jonah eventually took God's word to Nineveh and his sermon brought about the greatest revival recorded in the Bible. In one day, over 120,000 people repented! But Jonah's heart was so hard toward them that he actually became bitter and resentfully toward God when Nineveh repented.

When ministering to others, whether it's in church, business or our family, we must have God's heart, not just a message. God's desire is for everyone to come to repentance and come into a right relationship with Him. No matter what someone looks, sounds or acts like, we are not to stand in judgment of them (Matthew 7:1). Our job is to love them and remember that the same Grace that changed us can and will change others.

So I pray that you will have a desire to have God's heart. I pray that your eyes will be open to see people the way God sees them. I pray that where you have hardened your heart, that you will ask the Lord to forgive you so that you may minister to others with a heart of love and compassion. Don't be like Jonah. The world needs God's message, but more than that they need God's heart!

In His Grace,

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