



TRUTH APPLICATIONS

Articles

WHEN JONAH SPOKE THE WORD

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Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown! - Jonah 3:4, ESV

We know the story well. As one of my teachers outlined it, it's the story of Jonah running: *away* from God (chapter 1), *to* God (2), *with* God (3), and *ahead* of God (4).

You remember. God called Jonah to preach to Nineveh, the most fearsomely powerful of cities. But, Jonah wanted nothing to do with giving his enemies the chance to repent (cf. 4.2). So he boarded a boat for Tarshish, as far away as he could get.

But the Lord was serious about the project. A furious storm arose. The only solution – and he was the one who saw it – was to throw Jonah overboard. He would die, but at least he wouldn't have to preach a revival in Nineveh.

Wrong again. The same Lord whose call sent him running arranged for his salvation. The lodging he gave Jonah wasn't what the prophet would have booked, but it was the right place for prayer, remorse, and resolve. Nineveh looked better all the time.

Given a second chance, Jonah went and preached. Chapter 3:4 gives his text. Is it the thesis, the summary, or was Nineveh so spiritually sensitive that it was all that was necessary? Makes no difference. They heard and they heeded. Then they, too, were saved.

And Jonah was *furious!* He didn't doubt the power of the Word; he didn't like the fact that it would save *those* people. So, again, God taught him. He was not just all-knowing and all-powerful, he was also love. He cared about those people, all of them, probably more than they cared about each other. Certainly more than Jonah had cared about them.

There are many lessons in Jonah's story, so many we might miss one of the most important: When God's people speak his Word, amazing things can happen. The Word is powerful.

It just needs to be shared

February 21, 2011
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