

JONAH

INTRODUCTION

Imagine the Almighty telling a black man living in America in the 1950's to go to a Klu-Klux Klan meeting to tell them that God is not pleased with their behavior and wants to punish them as a warning. Or imagine God telling a Jewish person living in Germany in the 1940's to go to a Nazi party meeting and tell them that the Almighty is not pleased with their behavior, and that in 40 days, God is going to overthrow them. If God told you to do one of those things, would you want to go? Why would you want God to have mercy on people that seemingly don't deserve it?

Memory Verse: Jonah 3:5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

BIBLE LESSON

Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria. Jonah knew that through the prophecies of Hosea and Amos, his contemporaries, that the Assyrians would rise in power to punish Israel. When God tells him to go, perhaps this is why he is so reluctant. He did not want God to have mercy on a people that might destroy his family in the future. God's will is not ours. We must obey the Almighty, no matter what we think. His ways are higher than ours. **This lesson shows us the lessons learned by Jonah in his struggle to obey God.**

Jonah called to do God's will and decided not to. Jonah 1:1-3

God prepared a storm to deal with him. Jonah 1:4-17

The prayers of the repentant avail much. Jonah 2:1-10

The second call of God to Jonah was accepted. Jonah 3:1-10

Jonah's lessons are learned. Jonah 4:1-11

APPLICATION

What are two instances in your life where you have shown reluctance in doing the will of God? Discuss.