

## Meditation on Jonah

By Matt Olson

**We all know Jonah was the prophet who ran away. What is surprising, though, is the *reason* he ran. Jonah didn't run away because he was afraid the people of Nineveh wouldn't hear God's warning. Jonah worried that the people of Nineveh would have ears to hear and that God would let them hear. Jonah didn't run away because he feared God would destroy the people of Nineveh. He ran away because Jonah was afraid that the Spirit of God would be poured out on Nineveh and they would turn from their wicked ways and into the arms of a compassionate God.**



**You and I may not exactly run away from God when He calls us to tell others about Him, but we may look for ways to put it off as long as possible or even talk ourselves out of doing much of anything at all. Which is too bad, really, because sharing our faith is an awesome responsibility which has an eternal impact.**

**When Jonah ran away, he not only disobeyed God; he robbed the people of Nineveh of their chance to repent. Jonah robbed them of their chance to turn away from their sin and to turn back to God.**

**When I choose not to share my faith, for whatever reason, I rob the person I didn't talk to of their chance to hear God's good news and trust in His Son, Jesus, for salvation. That is why it is so important for you and I to seize those opportunities we have been given to tell others about Christ. Sharing our faith shows how much we care about those around us as we seek to help them escape their doom and embrace eternal life.**

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