

RUSSELL SANDERS
8-19-2020
JONAH PART 10
CH 1:15-16

In ch1:15 it says, ***“So (the sailors) took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea. And the sea ceased from raging.”***

This is exactly what Jonah had told them to do. Whether it had been his own idea or a word of instruction from God we may never know. Either way, God honored the action and calmed the storm. It is very likely that Jonah might have thought, “this is the end.”

Verse 16 says, ***“Then the men feared Yahweh (Jehovah) exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto Yahweh, and made vows.”*** They now knew for certain that Yahweh, the God of Israel, was a true God. They feared (reverenced) Him as the God who created the sea and the land as Jonah had told them. This was the kind of result their pagan gods could never do.

They even made a sacrifice to Yahweh to show their gratitude and sought His favor and forgiveness. Forgiveness? Yes, as evidenced by making vows to Him regarding how they would live their lives from here out.

Although Jonah was no longer onboard ship to witness it, he had made his first converts outside of Israel. These men now knew and by vows, acknowledged that Israel’s God was “God indeed!”

When you or I tell someone about God, telling them of redemption through Jesus, we might not see any results at that particular time. Jonah’s “word” about Jehovah (Yahweh) turned these unbelievers (pagans) into believers. The same may result when we share a “word” about the Lord. Isaiah 55:11 says of the Lord, ***“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth. It shall not return unto me void (of no affect), but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper whereto I sent it.”***

Romans 10:14 says, ***“....how shall they believe in Him (Jesus) of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without (someone to speak of him)?”*** It is estimated that over half of the younger generations in America have never even heard the name “Jesus” as Lord, except when it is taken in vain. They know absolutely nothing about Him. It is up to you and me and every true believer to speak **“my word”** to people as we “go along” here and there. If we will but speak it to them, Holy Spirit can use that “planted seed.” Whether or not we personally see results, God can use it so that it does not “return void” to Him.

Ask Holy Spirit for that boldness. Beyond that, ask also for Holy Spirit to bring people your way to whom you can witness. Ask Him for these “divine appointments.”