

Mid-Week Meditation

Read: Jonah 3¹⁰-4:11

Focus Verse: “At this point, God, you may as well take my life from me, because it would be better for me to die than to live:” *Jonah 4:3-Common English Bible*

Reflection

This is one of my favorite (among many) bible stories. Here is a brief synopsis. God asks Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach repentance to the city because they have been behaving wickedly. Jonah doesn't like the Ninevites and knows if they repent, God will forgive them rather than destroy them. Jonah would rather they all die, so he runs from God, hoping God won't find him. God does of course. You know about the whale. Jonah is deposited on dry land near the city, he preaches repentance to its citizens, they repent, God spares them and Jonah is mad at God for doing what God does, so Jonah pouts and tells God to kill him because he just can't live in a world with Ninevites and a God who does stuff like this.

The main reason I like this story is because Jonah is so much like us. We get mad at God sometimes because of something we think God hasn't done, has done, or will do, knowing as we do, how God operates and we never would. God's nature is not like ours and God's purposes are always far more loving than we can bring ourselves to be, so when God calls us to do something we'd rather not do, we run. Maybe not physically, but ignoring and procrastination are forms of running too.

God is the persistent type though and will keep at us until we get done what God wants/needs us to do. Don't expect a whale. (Don't focus too much on that particular thing in Jonah's story either.) But God will keep after us. I know. God kept after me for 20 years before I decided to go to seminary.

Give some thought to times when maybe God had something for you to do and you “ran.” How did God keep after you and bring you to the point of getting around to doing it? Did you thank God that you finally did? If not, it's never too late!

Pastor Chris

Prayer

Sometimes we get mad when you do what you do, God. We'd rather that you think like us. Remind us that we follow you. Help us to do that when we are reluctant. Keep after us, so that we'll come around to getting the work you have for us accomplished. Amen.