**Running From God**

**Jonah 1:1-3**

**Introduction:**

* **Jonah 1:1-3**
* **Matthew 12:39-41 (Pharisees demanding a sign, Jesus response)**
* **The Book of Jonah shows God’s love for all people.**
* **Many people have looked so hard at the great fish that hey miss the great God. G. Campbell Morgan**
* **Key to the book: God’s Love for all People.**
* **Today we will explore the first three passages and as we go through the book, let us open our hearts and see God’s love in action throughout the book.**

1. **God’s Call (v. 1)**
   1. **God spoke directly to Jonah, giving him a clear vision.**
   2. **God’s calling is often challenging, but always purposeful.**
   3. **Our response to God’s call should be trust and willingness.**
2. **Jonah’s Rebellion (vv. 2-3)**
   1. **Two Ways to have sin in your life.**
      1. **Commit Sin: do what we are not supposed to do.**
      2. **Omit Sin. Not do what we are supposed to do.**
   2. **Jonah fled in the opposite direction-choosing his own path.**
      1. **Always down when you move away from God.**
      2. **Down to Joppa**
      3. **Down into the bottom of the ship**
      4. **Down into the Sea**
      5. **Down in the fish**
   3. **He attempted to escape God’s presence, but can anyone run from God?**
      1. **You can run from God, but you cannot outrun God.**
      2. **Psalm 139:7-10: Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea. Even there Your hand shall lead me. And your right hand shall hold me.**
   4. **Disobedience leads to turmoil, while obedience brings peace.**
3. **The Consequences of Running (v. 3)**
   1. **Jonah boarded a ship to Tarshish, distancing himself from Nineveh and God’s Assignment.**
   2. **Our rebellion does not just affect us-it impacts others around us.**
   3. **Even when we run, God pursues us in His grace and discipline.**
      1. **God has provided a means of escape.**
      2. **Jesus Christ’s Death and Resurrection to all who believe.**

**Conclusion/Application**

* **Responding to God**
  + **Are we running from God?**
  + **Trusting in God’s plan leads to blessing and fulfillment.**
  + **Surrender is always better than resistance.**
* **Let us realize that we have God’s Word Giving to us.**
* **Be faithful as God’s Ambassadors**
* **We cannot run from God.**
* **This passage invites self-reflection on how we respond when God calls us to something difficult. Whether it is stepping out in faith, leaving behind comfort, or confronting sin, our choice is simple: obedience or avoidance. Which path will we take?**