



“Running Away from God”

Jonah 1:1-3 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon
September 17, 2023

Introduction –Jonah decides to run away from God. But his fleeing is not just geographical, but spiritual.

I. Why We Run Away from God.

- A. Jonah’s running away from God was not just geographical, but spiritual.
- B. The text indicates Jonah’s true spiritual condition.
- C. Anytime we sin we are in essence running away from God.
 - 1. We don’t want to do what God has told us to do.
 - 2. We want to remain in control of our own life.
- D. The first step of having a relationship with God is admitting you have been running from God.
- E. Everyone has their own reasons for why they run away from God.
- F. Jonah’s reasons may have been –
 - 1. Fear
 - 2. Pride
 - 3. Anger

II. What it Means to Run Away from God.

- A. Running from God is impossible geographically.
- B. Verse 3 tells us what running away meant for Jonah.
- C. Jonah was going far away to Tarshish.

III. How to Stop Running from God.

- A. Jonah knew about God and His grace, but he never experienced it personally.
 - 1. As a result, he didn’t really know God experientially.
 - 2. As a result, he wasn’t able to extend grace to others.
- B. To know God and his grace we must personally believe in Jesus for our salvation. He is the source of God’s manifold grace.

Conclusion.