

## COMMISSIONED Prt 3

*Jonah 1:4 But Jehovah hurled a great wind into the sea, and there was a great storm in the sea, so that the ship was thought to be broken. 5 Then the seamen were afraid, and each man cried to his god. And they threw out the ship's articles in the ship, into the sea in order to lighten it. But Jonah had gone down into the hold of the ship; and he lay there, and was fast asleep.*

*10 Then the men were afraid with a great fear. And they said to him, What is this you have done? For the men knew that he was fleeing from before the face of Jehovah, because he had told them...15 And they lifted Jonah up and threw him out into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. 17 And Jehovah had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.*

*Jonah 2:1 And Jonah prayed to Jehovah his God out of the fish's belly, 10 And Jehovah spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out on the dry land.*

*Jonah 3:1 And the Word of Jehovah came to Jonah the second time, saying, 2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out to it the proclamation that I am declaring to you. 3 And Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the Word of Jehovah. And Nineveh was a very great city of three days' journey.*

If you are joining us for the first time, you find us doing part 3 of a series titled **COMMISSIONED**.

- What a sequence of events we have before us:
  - Jonah hears the voice of God but decides to run from God and gets into a ship to Tarshish.
  - God comes after the ship in the form of a storm to the point of breaking it apart.
  - Jonah is thrown into the raging sea and the sea calms down.
  - God prepares a big fish that swallows Jonah.
  - Jonah prays to God after 3 days of being in the fish
  - God speaks to the fish to vomit Jonah on the shores of Nineveh.
  - God speaks to Jonah for the second time to go to Nineveh
- I don't know about you but when I look at these events, they point to one thing and that thing is called being relentless.
- This morning, I want to talk to you on the subject matter **A RELENTLESS PURSUIT**.
- Someone who is relentless is determined to do something and refuses to give up, even if what they are doing is unpleasant or seems cruel.
- One would think that when Jonah ran away from God, God was angry with him but rather I see a different reaction from God.

## COMMISSIONED Prt 3

- I see a God who is relentlessly pursuing Jonah.
- God is relentless about seeing you run and finish your race well.
- When God has called you, He will see to it that you have all that you need to finish what He called you to do. God knows the end before the beginning

*Isaiah 46: 10 I declare the end from the beginning, and ancient times from what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and all My good pleasure I will accomplish.' 11 I summon a bird of prey from the east, a man for My purpose from a far-off land. Truly I have spoken, and truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, and I will surely do it*

- I don't know what your story is but you might have placed a full stop where God had placed a comma and He is saying its not the end, only a slowing down of some sort.
- God was determined to get Jonah to be His mouth piece in the great city of Nineveh. He told the sea to go and find Jonah, when the sea was done with Jonah, a whale was called to transport him to his correct destination.
- Regardless of how far off you are from your calling, the Lord will make a way to bring you back to what He destined you for.
- Today, the Lord wants to encourage someone who feels that they are not good enough, someone who feels that they have missed the bus long time ago.
- The Lord is saying, He is not done with you – where you have dismissed yourself, that is where God starts. God is mindful of you and sees you as His treasured possession.

*Psalm 8: 4 what is man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man that You care for him? 5 You made him a little lower than the angels; You crowned him with glory and honor*

- God is in pursuit of you, His love is pursuing after you. He has always been after man, right from the time He created man in the garden. The Bible is full of men and women of God who felt that they were not good enough for God's use and yet God was after them. Lets look at a few:
- Moses felt incompetent to be used by God and he started making excuses.

*Exodus 3:11 And Moses said to God, Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the sons of Israel out of Egypt? ...13 And Moses said to God, Behold, when I come to the sons of Israel, and shall say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they shall say to me, What is His name? What shall I say to them?*

*Exodus 4:10 And Moses said to Jehovah, O my Lord, I am not a man of words now, nor since You have spoken to Your servant, but I am slow of speech and of a slow tongue. 11 And Jehovah said to him, Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the dumb, or deaf, or the*

## **COMMISSIONED Prt 3**

*seeing, or the blind? Have not I, Jehovah? 12 And now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say. 13 And he said, O my Lord, I pray You, send by the hand of him whom You will send. 14 And the anger of Jehovah was kindled against Moses.*

- Gideon felt insignificant to be used by God

*Judges 6:11 And the Angel of Jehovah came and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite. And his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. 12 And the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him, and said to him, Jehovah is with you, mighty warrior. 13 And Gideon said to Him, O, my Lord, if Jehovah is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not Jehovah bring us up from Egypt? But now Jehovah has forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. 14 And Jehovah looked upon him and said, Go in your might, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you? 15 And he said to him, O, my Lord, with what shall I save Israel? Behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.*

- Jeremiah felt too young to be used by God

*Jeremiah 1:4 And it happened, the Word of Jehovah came to me, saying, 5 Before I formed you in the belly I knew you; and before you came forth out of the womb I consecrated you, and I ordained you a prophet to the nations. 6 Then I said, Alas, Lord Jehovah! Behold, I do not know to speak; for I am a boy. 7 But Jehovah said to me, Do not say, I am a boy; for you shall go to all that I shall send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.*

- What is the lesson from these stories – the destiny of God will expose your weaknesses in order to draw you into trusting Him for its performance.
- In all four examples, including Jonah, you will find that God was relentlessly pursuing His servants in order to get them to do what He called them to do, regardless of their excuses.
- The devil will whisper in your ears that you are a lost cause but God is saying you are the right person for the job.
- God will often use your brokenness to fix someone else's brokenness.
- Your place of pain could be your greatest place of ministry.

*2 Corinthians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.*

## **COMMISSIONED Prt 3**

- Earlier on, I mentioned that after Jonah had run away, one would think that God was mad at him but in fact God was after him, wanting to use him still.
- Regardless of your faults and mistakes, God is still relentlessly pursuing you to reconnect with your destiny.
- What was Jonah being called to do? God was calling Jonah to go and warn the great city of Nineveh.

*Jonah 3:1 And the Word of Jehovah came to Jonah the second time, saying, 2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out to it the proclamation that I am declaring to you. 3 And Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the Word of Jehovah. And Nineveh was a very great city of three days' journey.*

- God's calling on Jonah had not changed because for a while he had been on the run away.  
We serve a God of multiple chances and not just second chances.
- As much as God was relentless with Jonah as a person, God was also relentless regarding the salvation of Nineveh.
- God wants all man to be saved – that has been the plan from the beginning and it will always be the agenda of heaven.
- God is relentlessly pursuing both those who are saved and those who are yet to be saved.
- If you know that God has always come through for, if you know that God has been faithful regardless of your unfaithfulness, how about availing yourself on His pursuit of the lost souls.

*2 Corinthians 5: 20 (AMP) So we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His appeal through us; we [as Christ's representatives] plead with you on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to God.*

- I don't know what is your view of God regarding human souls? God is on relentless pursuit of lost souls.
- There is nothing that speaks of God's pursuit after lost souls better than God sending His only son to die for sinners on the cross.

*1 John 4: 9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.*