

*“Now the Word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ‘Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before Me.’ But Jonah Rose Up To Flee Unto Tarshish From The Presence Of The LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the Presence of the LORD.” *Jonah 1:1-3 KJV**



Jonah was the son of Amittai (meaning faithful), yet still thought he could flee from God’s Presence. So he went down to Joppa (meaning beautiful) to escape. How often do we try to ignore the Truth by occupying our focus with or escaping to things that pleasure us? Many times it is not intentional, but nonetheless we are “drawn away of our own lust and enticed. And lust bringeth forth...sin and sin...death.” We know God is everywhere, but seem to still imagine our sin is hidden from Him. “O LORD, Thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, Thou understandest my thought afar off. Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from Thy Presence? If I ascend up into Heaven, Thou art there: if I make my bed in Hell, behold, Thou art there. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His Sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the Eyes of Him with Whom we have to do. ” So no matter what you may imagine or tell yourself, there is nothing hidden from God; not even your thoughts! “For the Word of God...is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” If you are upset with Him you might as well be open and honest about it; He already knew you would be. Never run from God when you are troubled. Run to Him! “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.’ Casting ALL your care upon Him for He careth for you.” How often do we sin willfully, knowing so and only later regret it? Be very, very careful! Jonah gave God all kinds of excuses, I’m sure, but God already knew his heart and had prepared hearts in Nineveh to receive the Words He had given Jonah. “And Jonah began to enter into the city a day’s journey, and he cried, and said, ‘Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.’ So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.” Because of his backsliding, great troubles came his way and storms not only threatened him, but those around him! Even after he had obeyed he sulked about it. “But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.” How often do you resent the unbeliever when you obey? God told Jonah, “Then said the LORD, ‘And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons?’” We must learn to mind our own fields first, deliver the warnings of God’s Truth, and let God deal with the hearts of the wicked.

When I sin I am not hidden,
Even though by guilt I’m ridden,
I cannot hide from God’s own Sight,
For ev’rywhere He is, is Light. –CGP

We cannot know whether or not God has prepared or is preparing another’s heart for Truth, but we can obey. God knows all so we must always trust Him.

*“Seek ye the LORD while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For My Thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My Ways,’ saith the LORD.” *Isaiah 55:6-8 KJV**