

# YOU ARE GOD'S PROJECT MANAGER

JONAH 1:1-17



The book of Jonah speaks about God sending out a message to Jonah for him to go to Nineveh and cry out against it because of their wickedness. In this story, we see Jonah; instead of going to Nineveh, he flees to Tarshish. On the journey to Tarshish, the boat encountered a storm due to Jonah's disobedience. Eventually, he was thrown into the sea and swallowed by a whale. He later repented and was sent to Nineveh again.

The question we can ask ourselves while reading the story of Jonah is, what do we do when we hear God's voice, and what we hear is a request that doesn't please us? Would we run away as Jonah did? What would our reaction be? As we read chapter 1 from verses 2-3, we notice that Jonah didn't even respond to God's instruction. On the contrary, he stood up and ran away in another direction. Jonah bought a ticket to a different town.

## TO KNOW

*Your Commitment to your position in Christ sets restrictions for the devil.*

*Know when to stay and when to leave, don't let it be an emotional decision but one dictated by God.*

In the same manner, Mathew 21:28-31 tells the parable of two sons, and we get to see different responses to God's calling from which we can learn. One son said yes but did not follow through, and the other son said no but went to do what was asked of him. A lesson to be drawn is don't be too quick to say yes and fail to follow through on your commitment. Some say yes to appear pleasant, but they don't want deep inside. From the second son, we can learn to be humble enough to regret our 'no' and change our minds. We are responsible for every choice we make, and one day we will be accountable to God for every choice we have made (see Ecclesiastes 11: 9).

In Jonah's case, he did not vocalise his 'no' when God sent him, but it showed in his action. He ran away to a city in the opposite direction of where God sent him. Reading through the story, we see that there's a price to pay for disobedience. One of the biggest tragedies of changing direction - disobedience - is that others also pay for it. So, one's careless decision can cause others to suffer. When we knowingly go against the will of God, we can experience a false sense of peace, which doesn't last long.

The beautiful thing about the nature of God is that He is faithful and merciful. His mercy is directed not only to the people of Nineveh but also to Jonah. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 2:13. that "If we are faithless, He remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself." And we can notice that God doesn't change direction even when we do so. He sticks to the plan and keeps His purpose. We have the free will to choose, but it is more beneficial to choose the direction that God is sending us.

God has many projects for humanity, He has things that He wants to do here on Earth, but He needs people who are willing to follow His guidance. It's not a matter of earthly qualifications and standards because He is the one that approves and appoints. Therefore, when we hear His voice, we should not only pick what suits us and discard everything that's uncomfortable. God has a plan and counsel, but He needs someone to execute them (Isaiah 46:9-11). God needs you. God uses men to save men through the word, and He uses men to bless men. He equips us for the things He's chosen us to do. Our responsibility is to be good project managers; the project now is to win souls.

*Reference scriptures:*

- Jonah 1:1-17
- Jeremiah 1:4-5
- Matthew 21:28-31
- Isaiah 46:9-11

