

January 24, 2021

A Reluctant Prophet

The prophet Jonah is often identified as a “reluctant” prophet. You’ll recall that when God give him a job to do, he seeks to avoid it. He knows that in the end God’s mission will be accomplished; it’s just that Jonah doesn’t want to do it. When he does accept the mission, he seems only half-heartedly interested in doing it.

Despite Jonah’s reluctance, God’s word produces results. Although the prophet’s message was destruction, the people of Nineveh hear and repent; and as we will read together this week, When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed God’s mind about the calamity that God said would befall them.

This week’s worship service will focus on our call. No matter how reluctant we might be to respond to God’s call, God’s purposes will be accomplished. Three important lessons come out of Jonah’s story:

1. *You cannot escape the presence of the Lord.*
2. *You cannot escape the work God has for you to do.*
3. *You cannot escape the love God has for you.*

Although we’ll be reading only a brief selection of verses, I invite you to read the entire book of Jonah. (I promise it’s not long!) I invite you to consider how God has been at work in your life - first claiming, and then calling you to service - according to God’s purpose.

Blessings,

Edward