

Ordination of a Prodigal (Jonah 1:1-3)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. Migration of birds, butterflies and salmon
 - B. Human can learn from animals (Job 12:7-9)
 - C. Read Jonah 1:1-3 and chart the course for the sermon
- II. **Jonah ran (Jonah 1:1-3)**
 - A. Jonah is called (Jonah 1:1)
 1. The historical context of his calling (2 Kings 14:23-27)
 - a. the condition of the kingdom of Israel (prosperous)
 - b. the condition of the kingdom of Assyria (turmoil)
 2. Understanding Jonah's calling (Jonah 1:2)
 - a. go **up**
 - b. to Nineveh the **great** city
 - c. and cry out **against** it
 - d. for their **wickedness** has come up before me
ra'ah ... is this evil or calamity?
is there a link between the two?
what about a man born blind (John 9) or
a tower falling and killing 18 people (Luke 13)
 - e. God's compassion desired their repentance
as well as to alleviate their pain (Psalm 145:9)
 3. Jonah's flight from the call (Jonah 1:3)
 - a. his disobedience was intentionally opposite to God's calling
 - b. his flight was characteristic of a dove (yonah) Psalm 55:4-8
 - B. Why did God ordain a prodigal?
 - C. Is it really possible for anyone to *flee from the presence of the Lord*?
 1. was Jonah affected by pagan ideas of local gods?
 2. another idea as to what "*presence of the Lord*" means
 3. God's omnipresence
(Amos 9:2-4, Psalm 139, Rom 8:37-39, Jer 23:23-24)
 - a. is the doctrine of God's omnipresence a comfort to you?
 - b. many try to hide from God, fearing His presence
(Isaiah 2:10,19, Hosea 10:8, Rev 6:15-17)
 - c. realize that you cannot run from God – (Heb 4:13)
repent and hide yourself in Christ alone!
- III. **We run**
 - A. Like Jonah we seek to flee the presence of the Lord
 1. Its been our propensity to do so since the fall of Adam
 - B. Like Jonah we have been clearly called
 1. Are you serving Christ or running away?
- IV. **Christ didn't run**
 - A. Like Jonah, Christ ...
 - B. Unlike Jonah, Christ ...
 - C. Christ answers the question that Jonah left unanswered (Jon 4:11)