

## **YOU CAN RUN, BUT YOU CANNOT HIDE** (Jonah 1)

A number of years ago there was a TV series and a movie called "The Fugitive." The story of Dr. Richard Kimball, an innocent convict, was on the run from the authorities (Sam Gerard) while hoping to find his wife's killer. This was based upon a true story. In the series, each week he almost gets caught, but continues to evade his captor.

It is one thing to run from men, it is a whole different business to try and run and hide from God. Though people may attempt to hide from God because of their sin, it is impossible! We might ask Adam, David, and now Jonah.

We too must take to heart the terrible consequences that result when we turn from God and His Word.

### **FOUR TRAGIC RESULTS WHEN WE RUN FROM THE LORD IN OUR DISOBEDIENCE.**

We need to realize there is no safe place away from God's presence.

#### **I. When We Drift Away From The Lord, Our Lives Give Clear Evidence Of It.**

The following are the fruits of Jonah's backsliding:

- A. We are misguided by circumstances. "a ship." Jonah thought it was a good thing.
  - 1. Don't be guided by Providence, when you refuse to be guided by God's Word.
  - 2. This ship in Joppa harbor was not meant to be a means of escape from God's revealed Word, but was a most terrible instrument in God's hand to deal with His servant.
- B. We are powerless when trouble comes. Jonah needed to be awakened by a pagan captain. When we are wayward, we sense the loss of spiritual vitality in our lives. It is gone! The pagan captain had to invite Jonah to the prayer meeting on deck.
- C. We are ashamed of our work and service for Christ. Amid many questions by the sailors, (v.8) Jonah is ashamed to say he is the Lord's prophet. We do the same...
- D. We despair thinking that God's use for us is over. "throw me into the sea" (v.12) Jonah felt now "both physically and spiritually a castaway, with no thought of rescue."

#### **II. When We Move Into Disobedience, Our Actions Always Hurt Others.**

Jonah never imagined that his sin would affect anyone else. Our sin always involves those near to us.

- A. Remember, no path of disobedience is ever blessed by the Lord. Never!
- B. Our sin causes God to intervene in special ways:
  - 1. At first God does not put obstacles in our path. He just lets us go downhill and pay for our foolish choices.

