1Thess #6

Evangelism is a call for all Believers!

I want to thank a new follower - Loretta from Kansas for the nice card and donation.

I am glad my teaching has been a guide for you.

Also, I want to announce that as we come into this voting season of mid-terms, please take your voting privilege serious.

I would suggest getting out early to vote. Because as I mentioned before I am not sure this mid-term election in November is going to be safe or sane.

In fact, I’ll be surprised if it goes off without any events or drama.

I actually believe it will be postponed.

Just be safe and do not go into a busy city area or voting poll where any crowds seem to be getting rowdy.

Remember its not about a liberal or conservative – its about who follows the authority of our land – the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Who seems to reflect your Christian values, that is what counts!

In our recent study of 1Thessalonians we have begun a look into Evangelism.

Let us jump into the OT – lets look at the prophet Jonah today. Jonah chapter one.

/Evangelism for the Bel is not always about comfort and convenience. We can not always have our comfort zone and safety rails in place so we feel confident to evangelize. A divine appointment may be placed in front of you and it may feel awkward or even uncomfortable. Perhaps you have been at odds with the person in the past. Or the environment feels uncomfortable – God sometimes places outside our comfort zone on purpose!\

Some of your greatest growth spurts can occur outside your comfort zone in a place you did not expect or perhaps you were even afraid of.

Don’t put God in box!

HE may call you to evangelize to someone you had issues with in the past – or HE may bring you to an environment that makes you feel uncomfortable.

One warning I always give people is be careful about evangelism at your job. You may be going against the authority or company policy and that places you in a position of rebellion and GOD does not approve of that.

Now Jonah was a prophet and part of his office and calling was to bring the truth of the one true God to a lost and dying world. He was commissioned to speak about the Messiah, that is a huge portion of a prophets calling. They were called to prophesize and bring people to the truth - which is evangelism.

We will jump through some of the book of Jonah because most of you know the story of Jonah in the belly of the sea monster.

Certain portions related to evangelism need to be highlighted for our study.

God called Jonah for the specific task of evangelizing to the enemies of Israel.

Knowing the fact that Assyrians were considered one of the top 3 or 4 enemies of the Israelites and here Jonah has to go into their territory and evangelize to them.

Nineveh was located right on the Tigris River a few hundred miles north of the original city of Babylon.

This was enemy territory;

/Jonah 1:1 **The word of the LORD came to Jonah** the son of Amittai, saying, 2 “Arise, **go to Nineveh**, the great city, and **cry out**(*qārā'*)**against it,** because their wickedness has come up before Me.”

This means to speak and proclaim loudly, to make a repetitive public statement.\

CAW-RAH – a Hebrew verb that can be translated to evangelize, to proclaim, to make public announcements.

This is a call from GOD to evangelize to a city filled with enemies of the Jews.

[Jon 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jon/1/3/s_890003) But Jonah got up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship that was going to Tarshish, paid the fare, and boarded it to go with them to Tarshish away from the presence of the LORD.

If you look on an ancient map this was the polar opposite of Nineveh…the exact opposite direction that GOD told him to go in.

[Jon 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jon/1/4/s_890004) However, the LORD hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea, so that the ship was about to break up.

The sailors aboard the ship were Unbels and they go into a panic. They begin to throw some cargo over the ship while Jonah goes below deck to get some rest.

The captain and his men are trying to figure out how this aggressive storm came out of nowhere and how they are going survive.

They all begin to pray to their own gods and they lighten the load but the ship is being tossed around like a stick in the wind.

They cast lots and the lots fell upon Jonah. Which is the luck of the draw – usually colored stones or markers that are tossed in a circle.

Interesting how GOD made sure the luck of the draw fell upon Jonah.

There is no luck or accidents inside the plan of GOD.

Look at verse 8;

Jon 1:8 Then they said to him, “Tell us, now! On whose account has this catastrophe *struck* us? What is your occupation, and where do you come from? What is your country, and from what people are you?”

[Jon 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jon/1/9/s_890009) So he said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land.” 10 Then the men became extremely afraid, and they said to him, “How could you do this?” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

Jonah admits who he is and who his GOD is and he finally takes responsibility for his own negative volition.

The storm keeps getting worse and Jonah makes the right call.

/Jon 1:12 And he said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea. Then the sea will become calm for you, because **I know that on account of me this great storm *has come* upon you.”**

When we run from God and remain outside HIS plan, misery and discipline can follow you and touch others in your periphery.\

These men cried out and attempted to steer the boat toward the shore but finally they had to toss Jonah off the ship.

/Jon 1: 15 So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and **the sea stopped its raging**. 16 Then the men became extremely afraid of the LORD, and **they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows**.

God will bring forth evangelism in crisis or peace. Jonah’s negativity was turned into a positive by the hand of GOD.\

The curse was turned into a blessing.

[Jon 1:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jon/1/17/s_890017) And the LORD designated a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish for three days and three nights.

Now Jonah chapter two is a chapter of repentance and rebound back into the plan of God. Once Jonah had adjusted to the justice system of God, then we see the sea monster vomit Jonah out onto the shoreline of Nineveh.

Exactly where God wanted him to be in the first place.

/You can run from the plan of God and continue in negativity toward truth. But eventually, GOD will bring the Bel to a point of misery or frustration and they will have to make a serious choice to adjust to the justice of God or continue into discipline. The bumps and bruises along the way and even the pain you bring upon others can either be turned into a blessing or become a permanent curse.\

Once you turn back toward GOD you have another opportunity to turn your life around. God loves to take a broken or lost person and give them a new life.

God wants the Bel to rise up from failure to turn from negativity and come back to HIM.

God’s heart is always for reconciliation.

Look at chapter three.

Jon 3:1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, 2 “Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you.”

Jonah had adjusted to the justice of GOD there was no need for shame or guilt – God simply placed him back on track where his calling was.

Jon 3:4 Then Jonah began to go through the city one day’s walk; and he cried out and said, “Forty more days, and Nineveh will be overthrown.”

40 - often the biblical number for a full cycle or completion, usually a completion of discipline.

Or a full cycle ordained by GOD to bring about a desired goal.

Sometimes 40 was related to a testing period as well.

/[Jon 3:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jon/3/5/s_892005)Then **the people of Nineveh believed in God**; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

Jonah was called into enemy territory to evangelize to a population he did not trust nor did he like them.\

Even the king made a proclamation and declared a day of fasting and repentance.

/Jon 3:10 When God saw their deeds, that **they turned from their evil way**, **then God relented of the disaster** which He had declared He would bring on them. So He did not do *it.*

Anytime a person turns to the justice system of GOD, acknowledging the work of Christ they open up the grace of GOD.\

God’s grace is active and open every day but until a person acknowledges the truth of TLJC, God can not pour out HIS full grace and mercy upon them.

God is a perfect gentleman if you refuse to accept the work of Christ He will honor your wishes.

 REPEAT

Now the sad part of the story and the deeper lesson beyond evangelism is the attitude of the prophet Jonah.

He still was angry and bitter over watching his enemies come to salvation.

Jump over to chapter four.

You should never be hard hearted and have hatred, so that you wish an enemy to go into the lake of fire, no matter how much they have hurt you in the past.

Jonah continues in arrogance and bitterness and God kept asking Jonah why are you upset?

God gives Jonah a plant to sit under for shade from the heat. Because his depression is so great he wants to die. Arrogant, self-centered people react like this when an enemy has a victory.

God uses a worm to destroy the tree and gives Jonah a hard lesson.

Look at verse 9;

Jon 4:9 But God said to Jonah, “Do you have a good reason to be angry about the plant?” And he said, “I have good reason to be angry, *even* to the point of death!”

Jonah has been arguing with God and he is in a fit of bitter, arrogance over having to had evangelize to his enemies.

We never know who GOD will place in our path for a divine appointment.

[Jon 4:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jon/4/10/s_893010) Then the LORD said, “You had compassion on the plant, for which you did not work and *which* you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight.

/Jon 4:11 “Should I not also have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are **more than 120,000 people, who do not know *the difference* between their right hand and their left,** *as well as* many animals?”

God does not allow anyone to perish if they have not heard the gospel or do not have the ability to understand the saving power of TLJC.\

The prophet Jonah had an office, a title and a commission by God.

Yet all Bels are expected to step up and evangelize - especially when God places a divine appointment in front of you.

The importance of a pastor-teacher, evangelist or deacon is just as important as any congregation member.

/Rom 10:14 How then are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? **How are they to believe in Him whom they have not heard?** And **how are they to hear without a preacher** (*kēryssō*)?

This means a public speaker, often used as a reference to an evangelist.\

KAY-RUSSO, is a Greek verb for the act of public preaching. But it often was used when the Apostles or early church leaders spoke publicly about TLJC.

John the Baptist was sometimes called a preacher.

/[Rom 10:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/10/15/s_1056015) But how are they to preach **unless they are sent**? Just as it is written: “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!”

All Bels are sent by GOD as ambassadors to speak out to a lost and dying world.\

As is the case with Jonah, there are people we do not trust and that may have hurt us in the past and yet we may be called to bring them to Christ.

/Rom 3:23 for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God,

All Bels need to maintain a keen awareness that they were once an enemy of the cross as well.\

That Unbel you may not like, will end up in the lake of fire because they believe they can come to God on their own terms and that is a satanic lie.

You could be a guiding light to show them the truth.

/1Pet 1:16 because it is written: **“YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.**”

(Lev 19:2, Lev 20:7)

The truth is, people want to know GOD. They have a deep desire to get close to GOD but that can not happen without the righteousness of Christ.\

There is incredible power and a celebration when one Unbel turns from the cosmic system toward the Cross of Christ.

/Luk 15:7 “I tell you that in the same way, **there will be *more* joy in heaven over one sinner who repents** than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.

Bringing a person to Christ is not only a gem in your eternal crown it is a heavenly celebration.\

Some Bels will be recognized as great soul winners in the heavenly realm.

Every person needs to be brought into a new birth and new creation so that they can spend eternity with GOD. You have the influence to help someone with that eternal gift.

/2Cor 5;17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *this person is* a new creation; the old things passed away; **behold, new things have come**.

2Tim 1:8 **Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord**or of me His prisoner, but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 **who saved us and called us with a holy calling**, not according to our works, but **according to His own purpose and grace**, which was granted to us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,\

Your calling as a CA Bel priest, ambassador for Christ and Royal Family member is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ out to other people.

We are to take the time, talent and treasure GOD graciously gives us and get the message of Christ crucified out into the devil’s world.

Satan wants Unbels to rely upon their own system of salvation and we know the truth is there is only one way…

/Act 4:12 And **there is salvation in no one else**; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved.

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons *and daughters* of God **through faith** **in Christ Jesus**.\