

God is still speaking today & human hearts respond.  
I am persuaded of this fact when we take note of the thousands  
of men & women enrolled in our seminaries. Also, when young  
people respond in church services and at Ridgecrest saying,  
"God has called & I must respond".

William Carey - Left his cobbler's shop & his native  
land to devote his life to a strange land & to unknown  
people of different language plus strange customs.

In this way thousands of men and women have found life  
by spending their lives in the redeeming service  
of John Wesley "Ten minutes before he ~~was~~ to preach the  
"The Spirit of God is upon me to become to  
me to preach the Gospel."  
Professor of New Orleans Bapt. Seminary - Said it  
that interest in World Missions was at a low ebb.  
School observed a special day in the interest of  
missions. A missionary spoke & a call for public  
prayer was given. Almost immediately the aisles of the  
church were crowded with consecrated, capable, courageous  
men & women. Our hearts were overwhelmed & many  
when spontaneously we fell upon ~~our~~ our knees to  
the president led "Almighty God, Thou Has today strongly  
restored our lack of faith. In a fresh and convincing way,  
Thou hast demonstrated the fact that thou art still in the  
business of calling men."

Men called of God know when God has spoken & they know  
that God has laid his hand on them. As some one said of  
W. L. Twett "It is conviction that convinces". Those  
in contact with God is real & whose spiritual experiences  
are sufficient to warrant the assertion "Thus saith the Lord".

With Jonah it was different -- These are tragic words!  
"I have fled up to flee"

Description of human reaction to divine call This is  
reported. Jonah was conscious of his actions.

"DOES GOD CALL PREACHERS?" Jonah 1:1-3

Intro: The "maker of heaven & earth" determined to move  
against the great wicked city of Nineveh. The "Holy one  
of Israel", who could not endure sin, definitely planned  
for its redemption. And the compassionate God, who would  
save "all the ends of the earth", issued the great call to  
Jonah.

1. The Call

The dramatic story of the book of Jonah begins:  
"Now the word of Jehovah came unto Jonah the son of Amittai"  
saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, & cry against  
it, for their wickedness is come up before me". V. 1-2

Significant declaration: Affirms the communication of  
God with a mere man.

The call of a man into divine service.

Manner of the call -- the way the word came to Jonah.  
is not made known & is not specified.

The circumstances at the time God spoke are not disclosed.

Attention is not drawn to circumstances but rather to  
the supreme fact that "the word of Jehovah came to Jonah."

Bible discloses that God's call of men has been by  
many avenues: 2 Tim. 1:9 "Who hath called us with a holy calling."

Amos -- tended the flocks & his call came to preach.

Isaiah -- worshiped in a magnificent temple when he  
was called to divine service.

Abraham & Esau -- saw visions & received the word  
of Jehovah.



God is still speaking today & human hearts respond.  
I am persuaded of this fact when we take note of the thousands of men & women enrolled in our seminaries. Also, when young people respond in church services and at Ridgecrest saying, "God has called & I must respond".

William Carey - left his cobbler's shop & his native land to devote his life to a strange land & to unknown people of different language plus strange customs.

In this way thousands of men and women have found life satisfying by spending their lives in the redeeming service of God. John Wesley "A few minutes before he departed to preach the gospel, he said to me, 'The spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has called me to preach the gospel.'"

A professor of New Orleans Bapt. Seminary - Said it seemed that interest in World Missions was at a low ebb. The school observed a special day in the interest of foreign missions. A missionary spoke & a call for public surrender was given. Almost immediately the aisles of the chapel were crowded with consecrated, capable, courageous young men & women. Our hearts were overwhelmed & many wept. When spontaneously we fell upon ~~our~~ our knees to pray, the president led "Almighty God, Thou Has today strongly rebuked our lack of faith. In a fresh and convincing way, Thou hast demonstrated the fact that thou art still in the business of calling men."

Men called of God know when God has spoken & they know when God has laid his hand on them. As some one said of Dr. Geo. W. Twett "It is conviction that convinces". Those whose contact with God is real & whose spiritual experiences is sufficient to warrant the assertion "Thus saith the Lord".

With Jonah it was different -- These are tragic words! "Jonah rose up to flee"

Description of human reaction to divine call This is a sad report. Jonah was conscious of his actions.

## "DOES GOD CALL PREACHERS?" Jonah 1:1-3

Intro: The "maker of heaven & earth" determined to move against the great wicked city of Nineveh. The "Holy one of Israel", who could not endure sin, definitely planned for its redemption. And the compassionate God, who would save "all the ends of the earth", issued the great call to Jonah.

### 1. The Call

The dramatic story of the book of Jonah begins: "Now the word of Jehovah came unto Jonah the son of Amittai" saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, & cry against it, for their wickedness is come up before me". V. 1-2

Significant declaration: Affirms the communication of God with a mere man.

The call of a man into divine service.

Manner of the call -- the way the word came to Jonah. is not made known & is not specified.

The circumstances at the time God spoke are not disclosed.

Attention is not drawn to circumstances but rather to the supreme fact that "the word of Jehovah came to Jonah.

Bible discloses that God's call of men has been by many avenues: 2 Tim. 1:9 "Who hath called us without holy calling."

Amos -- tended the flocks & his call came to preach.  
Isaiah -- worshiped in a magnificent temple when he was called to divine service.

Abraham & Ezekiel -- saw visions & received the word of Jehovah.



Joseph & Daniel -- Dreamed dreams & received messages from Jehovah.

Moses -- witnessed on unusual sight & heard the voice of God.

All of these received a divine call under different circumstances.

(Important) - the way in which God spoke to Jonah is not supreme -- the supreme thing is that Jehovah did speak. His word was given to Jonah -- He was charged to preach & to a definite people.

(Command) Arise - go - cry! strong emphasis to the authority - the command was not from a man but from Jehovah God.

Why was this (command urgent)? The spiritual need of Nineveh. "For their wickedness is come up before me".  
*God calls a man to preach (He calls somebody to hear him) & somebody who will want to hear him & somebody who will be helped when he hears him.*  
*Spurgeon's* & valuable Ministers could succeed at almost anything. Scarcely anything that is impossible to a man who keeps a congregation together for hundreds of sabbaths - Jesus described The Best Man.

## 2. Response To The Call

He had a chance to speak for God & share in the divine plan for the people of the world.

"But (Jonah rose) up to flee unto Tarshish" -- This is human response to divine call.

This is a sad statement -- wilful disobedience -- It illustrates the capacity of man for God, for spiritual life & how he pushes aside his moral responsibility.

*father: "Wait God's Call. Man will be satisfied. you though how want more than Solomon unless thou art called avoid preaching as thou wouldst hell itself."*

He did not respond this way because of ignorance. Nor for failure to hear the call. Nor because he did not understand what he had heard. A man not sure, should not preach!

Jonah did what he did because he did understand -- His attempted flight was a deliberate reaction to the clear call of God. He knew his responsibility.

(Two Truths) here to face -- (first), God can & does call men. (second), men can obey or disobey the known will of God. There is a conscious understanding of what God wants done -- For Example: Those we mentioned earlier.

✓ (Amos) heard & obeyed the voice of God to preach as a country preacher.

(Isaiah) -- Upon hearing the call made a personal commitment whom shall I send?

✓ (Abraham) -- was sure of his call & left the Ur of the Chaldeus to settle in Canaan.

(Daniel) -- Answered the call & kept his widows of prayer open for further directions.

✓ (Moses) -- Went forth from the burning bush & lead Israel from bondage.

(Paul) -- Divine call on Damascus road answered with all the zeal of his soul.

On this blessed truth rests the movement of missions today -- God still calls - men have a spiritual inwardness capable of responding to God -- They may still hear when God calls:

(I believe that God called men long ago) & that God still calls men today.  
✓ *God called men need to prepare - farmers sent young man to Baylor Seminary not factory to get him fit into a mold*



So. Calif. May 5, 57, P.M.

(Joppa) ~~to~~ To embark. This was the sea outlet for Jerusalem in Days of Solomon.

(Note His Direction) Jehovah had called him to go to the far east. But Jonah rose up to go far, far to (west.) The very opposite of divine purpose. He was seeking to completely escape the divine purpose.

(From the Presence) of Jehovah. [Psalm 139;7-10]  
Whither shall I go from thy spirit?"

Jonah knew about this truth, He was not ignorant of Gods presence. He deceived himself with the notion that he would no longer be under the power of God.

(Attempt to do the impossible) — This is the age old pattern. Men make an effort to thwart the divine plan & suffer losses.

(The way was open) - he found a boat docked at Joppa— Someone has said "When a person decides to run from the Lord, Satan always provides complete transportation facilities." Man is not a blind robot which acts in blind obedience, but it is in his power to obey or disobey. The boat was open & awaited an obedient prophet.

(Unhappy) This kind of response leads to unhappiness. Often today someone will say "What has Happened to this man or woman?" It is evident the joy of their salvation has been lost. There is inner conflict — like Jonah wretched, unhappy child of God. Most of time there is the refusal to live to the limit of spiritual vision & opportunity. In some cases there is rebellion against divine purpose & a clear call & a specific task.



This (happens to Christians) who have a call & spurn that call. James Kennedy said an old man once said to him "Preacher what am I to do? Briefly & earnestly, he told of his call to preach the gospel many years ago & of his efforts to be faithful for a while. Then he added the sad story of demas like defection leaving his spiritual commission, declaring even as tears filled eyes that all of his efforts in other Christians labours had left him in inner agony. This case is representative of many in our churches -- called in youth & gone to tarish instead.

But even though you (try to thwart Gods purpose) God's still alive -- "A great wind" "The flight ship stopped" the "guilt exposed" & God's call had to be reckoned with.

At Rocky Mt. Supper with Young man, named Farmer, going to Wake Forest College this summer. Told me about his call. It had been 14 years since he had been to church -- It was Easter Sunday & he had nothing to read, too poor even to buy a news paper -- so picked up Bible & read through Book of Acts & started Rom. Reached Rom 10:9 & 10 -- stopped told my wife I'm going to church tonight late in afternoon walked about mile -- some men in front of N. Rocky Mt. Ch. ~~and~~ invited me in. Stayed for service & when invitation was given I could not get down the aisles fast enough" -- Later wife and two boys saved -- heard call & am answering.

Some faithless, faltering, failing child of God may ask "Where is the joy that once I had when first I knew the Lord? The answer is plain -- one separated from God by sin needs to pray "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation"--

(Rebellions Christians need to act.) There is a word they need to depend upon "If we confess our sins, he is faithful

and righteous to forgive us our sins, & to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" --- 1 John 1:9