

that means you, me, and those who don't know their left hand from their right hand. You know it's easy to let hate and prejudice blind us when we see those around us who don't look like us or act like us. It's easy to say to ourselves that they don't deserve to be saved because they have been the worst of sinners: that is by our thinking. Jonah, a prophet of God, was told by God Himself to go to Nineveh and preach to these war-faring people. We are told by Christ Himself to go and preach to the whole world lost in sin. Jonah was swallowed by a large fish. We, as Christians, will be punished for our lack of obedience on the judgment day. Either way, God's Word will be taught to everybody. If we think we cannot forgive those who have hurt us, just look toward Jesus on

the cross. He forgave. In **Matthew 9:2-8**, Jesus forgave the paralytic that was lowered on a mat through the roof. Jesus forgave the woman caught in adultery as seen in **John 8:3-11**. In **Luke 23:39-43**, Jesus forgave the criminal on the cross, and in **Luke 23:34**, Jesus forgave the people who crucified Him. "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Jesus not only taught about forgiveness, he demonstrated it by His own willingness to forgive. God has forgiven all of our sins. We should not withhold forgiveness from those who need it. We, like Jonah, need to learn to not only forgive others, but also remember that we need God's forgiveness just as much as they do. Are you sharing the Gospel of Jesus with all?

By Bill Davis

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# Faithful Sayings

## Olsen Park Church of Christ

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### Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.  
10:20 a.m.  
6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

#### Elders:

Ken Ford  
Charles Kelley  
Pat Ledbetter

#### Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Bill Davis  
Pat Goguen  
Neil Ledbetter  
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## Jonah: Just Like Me

**Matthew 28:19-20** 19 read of such a person; "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

A prophet is one who is a spokesman for God whether by vision or by being given insight into the mind of God. He declares what he has seen or heard as to the message given to the prophet. In **Jonah 1**, the word of the Lord came to Jonah, son of Amittai.

When we sit down and really study the Bible, God told Jonah to go to how often do we find the great city of Nineveh that the people we read to preach against it about describe us to a because of its "T"? It's funny, the more wickedness, which had we study, the more God come up before God. will convict our hearts Nineveh was a great city, on the wayward ways of its population was more our lives and the than one hundred and darkness of our hearts. In twenty thousand people the book of Jonah, we and it took three days for

Jonah to go through the city due to its size. Not only was Nineveh a great city due to its size and population, but its sins were great before God Almighty. The Assyrian empire was a source of tremendous fear in the minds of many Jews in those days. The Jews feared that their nation would be consumed by the huge Assyrian empire, with Nineveh as its capital. The cruelty of the Assyrians was a force to be reckoned with. The Assyrians would often skin their captives alive and pull out their tongues. They were known to mutilate the entire population of a city when they conquered them; they would resort to other atrocities to create fear and total submission among their subjects. The Jews had a deep hatred for the people of Nineveh; the Jews didn't care for Gentiles at all. Even in the days of Jesus, the Jews would go the extra mile from Judea to Galilee by walking around the border of Samaria. The Jews didn't like the Samaritans either.

Do we, as Christians, go forth in our own little world and preach and teach God's Word to those around us? Do we use the talents that God has

given us to teach those we know, such as family, neighbors, and close friends? Do we go the other way like Jonah did because he knew God would be merciful upon those he taught that repented from their sins? Are we like the servants in **Matthew 25:14**, in which each one was given a certain amount of talents to invest while their master was gone? The first went forth and used his talent to gain five more talents; he was a wise servant and was not afraid to invest his talents wisely. All of us should be this way; we are to go forth and invest the talents God has given to us. The second servant went forth and invested his two talents. These two servants were not afraid to invest what had been given to them; this takes courage. The last servant was like many Christians today; he took his one talent and went and hid it in fear. When it comes to investing in somebody's spiritual life, we have a tendency to run and hide in fear. We become afraid and put our talent that God has given us in the ground only to wait for our Lord's coming. This is not a wise investment. We, like Jonah, are

told to go to those we may not like. We will do it the easy way, or like Jonah, we will do it the hard way. We do have a choice.

Like Jonah, we can have an unforgiving attitude toward those who have done us wrong or those we don't like. In **Matthew 18:21**, we read about a servant who owed his master ten thousand talents and could not even come close to paying his master part of what he owed. His master ordered that he, his wife and children, and all that he owned be sold to repay the debt. The servant fell on his knees before his master, "Be patient with me, he begged, I will pay back everything." The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt, and let him go. But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. "Pay back what you owe me!" he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, "Be patient with me and I will pay you back." But he refused! Instead he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the

other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. The master called the servant in, "You wicked servant," he said, "I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" In anger, his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured until he should pay back all that he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.

As Christians, we have an unforgiving heart toward those who have hurt us in the past. It's as if we want God to rain fire down on them for the pain they have put upon us during all these years. **Matthew 28:19** means what it says. We cannot allow our pain and our hatred to blind us in saving another; bringing those lost in sin to repentance and baptism to save their souls. We need to remember that God did forgive us of all our sins, therefore we should not withhold forgiveness from those who have hurt us. Jesus died for the whole world;