

## *First Wednesday of Lent – 2/13*

"Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And He cried out, 'Forty days more and Nineveh shall be overthrown.' And the people of Nineveh believed God." (Jonah 3:3-4)

Jonah is the man! He is to be the mover of mountains. He is to be the righter of wrongs even if He doesn't want to be. Jonah, the reluctant prophet, is going to bring the people of Nineveh back to the Lord faster than it should have even been possible.

If it were up to Jonah he would rather keep his light under the bushel basket. He would rather not be a prophet. After all, as a profession there wasn't a lot to recommend it. The salary for a prophet was lousy and there were no signing bonuses or benefits and the work could be dangerous to the prophet's health. Besides he didn't even want to convert these people. He hated the Ninevites and wanted God to destroy them.

Jonah was brought kicking and screaming to this ministry. By all accounts, he should have failed because he wanted to fail; but instead he was wildly successful. Unlike the little red engine that kept saying, "I think I can. I think I can," and did, Jonah is the little red prophet who says, "I know I can't. I know I can't" but did it anyway and was a smash hit!

Jonah is the guy who didn't think that he could paint and didn't want to paint and then paints a priceless masterpiece the first time he tries.

What is God calling us to that we don't want to hear about? Is it a vocation that I never planned for? Is it a ministry that I never wanted to get involved in?

Could there be other Jonahs out there that need to share the word of redemption with people around them whom they would just as soon see condemned. Are they afraid of failure or afraid of success?

Perhaps what made Jonah the superstar of prophets was that once he began his ministry he put his whole self into it and God's spirit then could be released to rush through to people. How many souls are waiting for the present day reluctant prophets to commit to spreading the word?

### *Reflection Questions*

- 1. Would I feel less reluctant about assuming a vocation if I learned more about the lifestyle?*
- 2. What's holding me back from beginning my ministry?*