

**September 11, 2011/Center UMC/Psalm 18:25-30/Jonah 3/Matthew 4:1-4**  
**The Person God Can Use: The Person Acting On The Word of God**  
**Rev. Daniel D. Rasmussen**

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city--a visit required three days. On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned." The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish." When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

**Jonah's lesson:** God does not give you an out. It means repeating 4<sup>th</sup> grade. God does not check with us to see if we like the mission. Running doesn't work.

It's not about the size of the mission, but how big God is.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. The tempter came to Him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

**The lesson from Jesus in Matthew 4:**

Know the word of God.

The Word of God is able to rebut satan.

The devil will hit us at our weakest points.

Our strength is in the Word of God, not our abilities.

**The last two weeks we have talked about the person \_\_\_\_\_ by God, and the person \_\_\_\_\_ to God.**

What do we do before we get those "specific" marching orders?

- Love one another.
- Be devoted to one another.
- Honor one another above yourselves.
- Live in harmony with one another.
- Stop passing judgment on one another.
- Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you.
- Instruct one another.
- Greet one another with a holy kiss.

- Agree with one another so that there may be no divisions.
- Serve one another in love.
- Be patient, bearing with one another in love.
- Be kind and compassionate to one another,
- Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.
- Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.
- Teach and admonish one another with all wisdom.
- Encourage one another.
- Spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
- Do not slander one another.
- Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.
- Have fellowship with one another.

**I promise you something: if you were to be faithful in these “one anothers” you can be \_\_\_\_\_ that you would already know your specific marching orders. It would come from “proximity” to the Savior!**