

“Nuclear Fishin’: A Whale of a Fish Story”

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□ Jonah

- Haddon Robinson: “If ever there was a man who lived in direct disobedience to God, it was the prophet Jonah. God directed him to preach to the citizens of Nineveh, but he boarded a ship and sailed away from God rather than do what God had commanded him to do. During his flight a violent storm arose that terrified the pagan sailors, but Jonah was below deck in the boat asleep. Evidently Jonah had peace about the decision he made. On the other hand, if ever there was someone who was doing God’s will, it was Jesus going to the cross. Yet, in the Garden of Gethsemane he was in anguish, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the earth (Luke 22:44). Peace is not evidence we have made a godly decision.” (*Preaching to a Shifting Culture*, 85-86)

□ Nineveh

- “Should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh . . . ?” (Jonah 4:11)
- Billy Graham diary entry: “Preached on the Prodigal Son. Felt somewhat bound, not as much liberty as normal. The crowd was about the same tonight as before. It was very hot and humid. I think we had about the smallest response to the invitation we have had yet. I seem to sense that there is a greater response to the invitation when I preach on judgment than any other subject. Tonight I preached more on the love, mercy, and grace of God, and the response is not nearly so great. Perhaps the message for New York is judgment.” (Curtis Mitchell, *God in the Garden: The Amazing Story of Billy Graham’s First New York Crusade*, 134)
- Ellen White: “In every city, filled though it may be with violence and crime, there are many who with proper teaching may learn to become followers of Jesus. Thousands may thus be reached with saving truth and be led to receive Christ as a personal Saviour.” (*Prophets and Kings* 277)
- Ralph Moore: “One question we all face is, ‘Am I willing to accept the Great Commission as a personal calling?’ If the answer is yes, then nothing will stand between us and spiritual revolution. Our gifts of time, money and prestige will burst with sacrifice. You and I will crave the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can make a difference wherever we go. If we embrace the goal of spiritual revolution, we will only be happy in a church that sees itself as a *force for change* and acts accordingly. It will be easy to set aside comfortable tradition (even the tradition of the last decade) for functional steps toward the goal of Christ’s kingdom realized in our generation. The point is that, like Peter and Andrew, you and I must be willing to become ‘fishers of [people]’ on a much broader scale. We simply need more fishing boats.” (*How to Multiply Your Church* 114-115).

- Oswald Chambers: “If you do not cut the moorings [the ropes that tie you to the shore], God will have to break them by a storm and send you out. Launch all on God, go out on the great swelling tide of His purpose, and you will get your eyes open. If you believe in Jesus, you are not to spend all your time in the smooth waters just inside the harbor bar, full of delight, but always moored; you have to get out through the harbor bar into the great deeps of God . . .” (*My Utmost for His Highest* 160)
- Jesus: “The men of Nineveh will stand up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something [Someone] greater than Jonah is here.” (Matthew 12:41)

*“We have heard a joyful sound—
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!”*