

THE



“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

July 2026

No. 487

RUNNING INTO THE FIRE

Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. (Jonah 1:1-3)

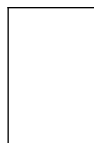
Jonah was told by God to do something and he ran away from

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danger. This was contradictory to God's will and Jonah was shown that.

But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken. Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep. So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not. (Jonah 1:4-6)

The people on the ship with Jonah knew there was an issue and wanted Jonah to speak with God to save them. Then they figured out who was the cause of the turmoil.

And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. (Jonah 1:7)

So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging. (Jonah 1:15)

Jonah ran away at first, but in the end did what needed to be done.

Elijah also ran away from danger when he was threatened by Jezebel.

Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as

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the life of one of them by to morrow about this time. And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. (1 Kings 19:2-4)

Peter also tried to run away from danger. He denied being associated with Christ to try to save himself and regretted it when he realized what he had done.

Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off. And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them. But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him. And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not. And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not. And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaeen. And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly. (Luke 22:54-62)

These are all examples of running away from danger. When the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York happened, what did the first responders do? They ran into the fire. They ran towards danger.

Jesus knew He was going to be betrayed. He knew that His time on Earth would quickly be ending so what did He do? He

did not avoid the danger.

And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry. (Mat. 17:22-23)

Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand. (Mark 14:42)

He told the disciples what was going to happen and then allowed God's will to be done. Many times, we do all that we can to stay safe, but are there times when we are avoiding God's will by doing that? Are you willing to run into the fire so to speak if you know that God wants you to do something? If not, the larger issue would be a lack of faith and not having God as our number one priority.

Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. (Mat. 17:17-20)

We need to have complete trust in God to take care of us.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 14:27)

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer:

behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. (Rev. 2:9-10)

If we have faith and do His will, we cannot be separated from God's love. No matter what dangers are in front of us, He will be there. That is the most important thing to remember:

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:31-39)

Powerful words that help us see that God is in control, He loves us, and no matter what is put in front of us, He will be there. Now, don't be confused; I'm not saying that we should do dangerous things on purpose. I'm saying that if the situation presents itself and we know that God wants us to do something, we need to do it. Jonah realized this the hard way. Jesus knew it. So, are you ready to run into the fire if needed?

A.D.

“GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU” Lyrics

Be not dismayed whate'er betide;
God will take care of you.
Beneath His wings of love abide;
God will take care of you.

Refrain:

God will take care of you,
through ev'ry day, o'er all the way.
He will take care of you;
God will take care of you.

Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
God will take care of you.
When dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you.

Refrain:

God will take care of you,
through ev'ry day, o'er all the way.
He will take care of you;
God will take care of you.

All you may need He will provide;
God will take care of you.
All strength you need will be supplied;
God will take care of you.

Refrain:

God will take care of you,
through ev'ry day, o'er all the way.
He will take care of you;
God will take care of you.

No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you.
Lean, weary one, upon His breast;
God will take care of you.

Civilla D. Martin (1904)

SOME VERSES TO HELP US FACE FEAR

2Ti. 1:7 — *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

Psa. 56:2-3 — *Mine enemies would daily swallow me up: for they be many that fight against me, O thou most High. What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.*

Deu. 31:6 — *Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

Joh 14:27 — *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

1Pe. 5:6-7 — *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

Rom. 15:13 — *Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.*

Heb. 10:24-25 — *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

Php. 4:8-9 — *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	TIME	PLACE	SPEAKER
July	10 am & 6 pm Sun.	Oak Grove	Hunter Bulger (Prattville, AL)
7-12	7 pm Mon.– Fri.	Woodland, AL	Jason Conner (Antioch, TN)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. How is a man tempted according to James?
2. Who was the first of the apostles to perform a miracle after Jesus' resurrection?
3. I was the queen of Persia and refused to submit to my husband King Ahasuerus' request. Who am I?
4. What did Noah build the ark out of?
5. Which one of Paul's companions was half Jewish?

...ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

And remember last month's questions?

1. Who carried the cross part of the way for Christ?
SIMON OF CYRENE (Mat. 27-32)
2. What was Jesus' first temptation in the wilderness?
TO COMMAND A STONE TO BECOME BREAD.
(Luke 4:2-3)
3. What did John do to the little book in Revelation?
HE ATE IT (Rev. 10:10)
4. How long did it rain during the great flood? 40 DAYS
AND 40 NIGHTS (Gen. 7:12)
5. Who was Adam and Eve's third named son? SETH
(Gen. 4:25)