

We Are People of Obedience

“Arise! And go.....” Jonah 1:2

A couple of years ago, I met a Christian woman who was originally from Nineveh, which is now in Northern Iraq. It caused me to think of what happened there in Jonah's time. You know the story well.

In Jonah's day, the people of Nineveh were so wicked, even Jonah did not want to preach to them. For one thing, Jonah was a great lover of Israel and his loyalty was fierce. And Nineveh was a city considered to be filled with people against Israel. In truth, Jonah did not want to deliver a message that would call the people of Nineveh to repentance. He did not want God to spare them! Sure enough, when Jonah finally delivered the message to Nineveh – via a pathway that took him through the belly of a whale, they repented.

Jonah 3:10 Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

Jonah was not seeing the people of Nineveh from Heaven's view point. He saw them from an earthly perspective with a focus on their behavior that allowed prejudice to affect his ability to share God's Goodness with people who were in desperate need! God sees people from a different point of view. He sees mankind through the finished work of the Cross. He sees mankind in Christ and we must see as He sees.

From the beginning God's desire was to have a family. We know that He chose to bring that family of promise through Abraham, a man of obedience. God knows the plans that He has for each person. And all His plans are for good, hope, and purpose. Even Abraham was called out from amongst a people who worshipped pagan gods, to become the 'father of many nations'.

Back to the modern day woman from Nineveh. We were attending an Aglow event and she had come forth to pray for her people who lived in Northern Iraq, a nation currently under the influence of another spirit. As she stood at the mic and cried out for her people in that ancient land, something began to stir within me.

In the current age that we are in, some find it easy to write off people groups as being wicked or not worthy of God's love. Judgements and generalizations are made, yet the truth that Jesus died for all cancels out every judgement. We withhold the Light of salvation and redemption because, like Jonah, we are looking through an emotion-based, earthly view. God NEVER turns His back on anyone. Christ died for ALL. (John 3:16) God never turns His back on those who repent, who cry out to Him to come into their lives. And neither do Aglow people!

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Stop for a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to see people groups within your own community who are waiting for 'God with skin on' to come to them.

Who has been written off as too far gone? The homeless? Teens? Gangs? The Addict? Single moms? The poor? Those who have been abused or live in abusive situations? Maybe those who have suffered through abortions? God loves them all and He has placed YOU in your community to be His hands, His arms of love to them. Don't grow weary in prayer or reaching out. New strength is coming!

1. As the Holy Spirit begins to open your eyes, jot down the different people groups in your community that He is highlighting.
2. Of the groups He has highlighted, ask Him which one you should begin with. If your group is large, perhaps you can reach out in several different directions depending upon the passion and giftings available in the group. (Do you have identity statements for each person in your group? If not, now is a good time to collect them.)
3. As God stirs our hearts to reach out, He will give us a plan that will unfold as we follow Him. It is possible that His plans will take us out of our comfort zone. Encourage each person in the group that when He asks you to do something, He gives you all that is needed to carry it out.
4. Now that everyone is encouraged, take a few minutes to ask Him for His plan. What is the first thing you should do?

God has called Aglow to be a visual aid in each community. Expect Him to show you the ways He has planned for your group to be His hands, His feet, His voice, and to bring His provision and love in greater ways in your community. And be sure to send pictures and a report to Headquarters so we can share it on our website!

If your group needs more encouragement to step out to reach those in your community that God has set your group there to reach, consider taking the time to watch an interview down with an Aglow group in Virginia who began by eating their lunch in a park where no one else wanted to go. Out of that obedience, relationships were born that will change the course of history. Go to YouTube. Aglow International. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPbEyREAAVk&t=22s>

Or check out these stories from Aglow.org

- **Opportunity at Hand** - <https://aglow.org/news/us-news/1487-the-opportunity-at-hand>
- **Aglow Canada Apostolic Prophetic Outreaches** - <https://aglow.org/news/global-news/canada/1467-aglow-canada-apostolic-prophetic-outreaches>
- **Aglow in Belarus** - <https://aglow.org/news/global-news/europe/1453-aglow-in-belarus>
- **Aglow Denmark Annual Health Fair Outreach** - <https://aglow.org/news/global-news/europe/1050-aglow-denmark-annual-health-fair-outreach>
- **At A Time Like This Aglow Cameroon Declares 'Trust in God'** - <https://aglow.org/news/global-news/africa/1475-at-a-time-like-this-aglow-cameroon-declares-trust-in-god>
- **Healing Power In India** - <https://aglow.org/news/global-news/asia/1322-healing-power-in-india>