

October 6, 2025

Daily Reflections



THE PERSISTENCE OF GOD

By Elisabeth Beall

An Excerpt from Today's First Reading

*This is the word of the LORD that came to Jonah, son of Amittai:
“Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and preach against it;
their wickedness has come up before me.”
But Jonah made ready to flee to Tarshish away from the LORD.*

JONAH 1:1-3

Reflection

What a very human response we see in today's First Reading! I ask myself: how many times have I tried to run away from what God wanted me to do? How many times have I tried to close my ears, my eyes, my heart to what God was asking of me?

It's a serious question, but these verses from the Book of Jonah make me

chuckle, too. They raise in my mind an image of a dog trying to hide from a bath by sticking her head behind the curtains (body, of course, still fully visible), or a child who claps his hands over his ears and chants nonsense words so he can't hear his parents telling him to tidy up his room.

Let's face it: life is filled with tasks that we definitely don't want to do. But we soon learn that there are consequences if we actually don't do them. Don't want to do your homework? Watch your grade decline. Don't want to take on that task at work? Listen to your supervisor reprimand you – or worse.

But when it's God calling us to do or be something, those consequences may not be so readily, so quickly, visible. They were for Jonah, of course, who ended up in the belly of a large fish for three days and nights. But for most of us, not heeding God's call results in micro-consequences that can gradually snowball. We may feel a nagging dissatisfaction with the way things are, we may attempt to distract ourselves from that call, we may distance ourselves from God and struggle to rediscover our footing in that key relationship.

But God is persistent. And God is patient. It doesn't matter how much distance try to establish between us – God is always there. Waiting. Calling. And no matter how challenging the path God calls us to walk, we never walk it alone, for God is always with us.

Even Jonah could see that inside the darkness of the great fish.

*"To the roots of the mountains I sank down;
the earth beneath barred me in forever.
But you, Lord my God,
brought my life up from the pit."*

JONAH 2:6



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For Pondering

- Think of a time you tried to ignore God's call to you. What did you do to try to drown out that call? What happened? What were the consequences of ignoring that call?
 - Think of a time you followed God's call and encountered challenges. How did you respond to those challenges? How did you feel God alongside you?
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For Prayer

God of wisdom and mercy,

*I thank you for reaching out your hand to me,
For calling me to come closer to you.
I pray for obedience, for faith, for trust
As I follow where you lead me,
Even when the path is steep and rocky,
Even when I cannot see where or how the journey will end.
I rejoice that you travel always by my side.
Amen.*

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