

greatest enemy, the wicked Assyrian aggressor.

Jonah is one of the great missionary books of the Bible. It shows a man anxious to serve the Lord, but centering his interest in his own people. God desires that our interest should not be exclusively centered upon our own family, our own church, or our own country. He wants us, of course, to take special interest in these matters. If we do not care for those that are near to us, how can we be expected to care for those at a distance? God gives us each a special responsibility for our family, our church, and our nation; yet He wants us to lift up our eyes unto the whole world which He has created, and to think of every portion of it.

Someone has said that when a church ceases to be evangelistic it soon ceases to be evangelical. Whether this is strictly true or not, it can at least be said that if a church ceases to have an interest in winning souls for the Lord, it will either eventually give up its faith and become a prey to modernism, or it will fall into dead orthodoxy, and have nothing of real faith left. God wants us to look out and take an interest in the people beyond our family, beyond our city, beyond our church, even beyond our nation.

Thus the first verse of the book of Jonah has to be understood in the light of the verse that we have looked at from II Kings. We have here a patriotic Israelite, a man who is greatly interested in helping his own people, and God has commanded him to leave them. Jonah was not pleased. There were plenty of people in Israel who needed his message. He did not like the idea of deserting them in order to go to Nineveh. Jonah knew that Nineveh was the center of aggressiveness and hatred in the world. He knew that his own