

In Church but gone AWOL @ Workplace?

Jonah 1:1-3 "...Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish..."

Jonah went AWOL. How can I go AWOL (Away Without Official Leave) from God when I am a Christian? I am like Jonah if I am not an effective witness (living out my faith) where God has called me to work. Did I ever struggle with God when I am urged to pray for individuals who I perceive hurt or in reality hurt my career at work? Yes, many times over. I struggle with praying for them, because I know God is merciful and kind, and would forgive and bless them when my heart is bleeding from the hurt (perceived or real). Against my selfish thoughts I bow to God's wishes and pray with a heavy heart. At the end of the day God's goodness in my life manifests in spite of the real or perceived hurt.

Three points from Jonah's story:

1. **Go where God is neglected**— In many corporate workplaces, God is not given prime place in decision making and culture development. Do not run away from corporate workplaces (that God has called you to) into ministry workplaces. God needs many workplace believers to see their work as their ministry location and serve others with the goal of revealing God's love for them.
2. **God wants you to be his mouthpiece**— Be an ambassador or witness for God in your workplace. Mix with others and accommodate others without being tainted by sin.
3. **God wants you to introduce him to those you come in contact with**— We meet more people at work over the course of our career than we meet in Church. Seek to introduce them to God. Preach the gospel always with your deeds - St. Francis Assisi.

Do not be like Jonah who went AWOL, be a witness where God has placed you.

(Adapted from Pastor Gerry Michalski's Teaching)

