

Turning Tides: You can run, but you can't hide

By Brett Hilliard, November 02, 2025

Our running from God is quite sophisticated.

1. Accumulated bitterness

See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Hebrews 12:15 NIV

2. Unresolved disappointment

We tend to think, "Life should be fair because God is fair." But God is not life. And if I confuse God with the physical reality of life... then I set myself up for crashing disappointment. – Philip Yancey, "Disappointment with God"

3. Unconfessed sin

Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!

Luke 5:8 NASB

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word is not in us.

1 John 1:8-10 NIV

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

James 5:16 NIV

4. Conflicting opinions

Because you say so, I will...

Luke 5:5 NIV

While running, people make strange decisions.

After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

Jonah 1:3 NIV

He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

Jonah 1:9 NIV

The mercy of God is mysteriously broad.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1. Take a moment to identify times in which you have run from God. What was your reason?
- 2. Jonah’s hatred for those he saw as undeserving led him to disobey God. Is there anyone you harbour resentment toward? Any race of people you secretly dislike? Take a moment to confess.