

What are you running away from?

Geoff and Stephen meet, with Steve constantly running to and from.

G: (is holding a folder that he has been perusing) How are you mate?

S: Yeah, great. (S runs a short distance)

G: Steve, what are you doing?

S: What do you mean, what am I doing? I'm standing here speaking to you.

G: No, you just ran away.

S: (S runs back) What are you talking about? (S runs away again).

G: Aah. What are you running away from?

S: (S runs back) You're not making any sense. I'm not running away from anything.

G: Hang on. Let me just look something up here (turns pages on the folder).

S: Look up what?

G: 'False refuges that Christians run toward'. Run toward? No, not that one. (turns page)

'Ways that Christians try to run their own lives apart from God.' No, not that one. (turns page)

Here we go. 'Things Christians run away from'. That's the one I was looking for.

S: Geoff, I'm not running away from anything.

G: Number 1. Christians can run away from pain and suffering. Understandably, like any person, Christians do not like pain and suffering, and so can avoid doing godly things to avoid probable or possible physical or emotional pain.

S: I'm not running away from pain and suffering. The other night I was very much aware that the packet of Tim Tams in the fridge might be empty. But rather than avoid the pain of seeing an empty packet, I chose to open the fridge and face the potential pain. And yes, the packet was empty. That was hard. (runs away)

G: Number 2. Christians can run away from having hard conversations. Feeling scared, threatened, worried; not willing to go through discomfort, Christians can avoid conversations that need to happen. That's not you is it Steve?

S: (runs back) Actually Geoff, I just recently did have a hard conversation.

G: You did?

S: Yes, I had to have a big talk with my wife, because she was the one who ate the last Tim Tam, and, left the empty packet in the fridge. (runs away)

G: Hmm, I think I need to keep looking. Number 3. Christians can run away from making big decisions. Scared of making a wrong decision and messing up their lives, Christians can stick their head in the sand and hope an issue will just fix itself. I know this is mixing metaphors, but are you sticking your head in the sand and running away from making an important decision?

S: (runs back) Y'know what, I've actually just made a big decision about the Tim Tams. I'm going to buy a packet of dark chocolate Tim Tams, because I know my wife doesn't like them.

G: Really?

S: Nah, just joking. I've decided I going to buy both types of Tim Tams, so that we can each have our own packet. (runs away, then runs back)

G: That's so big of you Steve.

S: Yeah. (runs away)

G: Let's see what else Christians can run away from. Ok. Number 4. Here we go. Christians can be like Jonah and run away from a call that God has put on their life. Is that it Steve? Are you being a Jonah?

S: No, of course not! (starts to take a step away, then stops)

G: That's it, isn't it? You're running away from a ministry that God has for you.

S: Maybe (starts edging himself away).

G: Steve, stop,... stop. Come back here. (S returns)... Time to stop running. A Christian is not someone who runs away from living like Jesus. That's the same as running away from Jesus.

S: How can we run away from Jesus if we are his followers?

G: Exactly!

S: Jesus didn't run away from the grief and pain that was sitting in front of him.

G: He didn't run away from having heavy conversations with people, even though he knew they wouldn't like it.

S: He didn't run away from making big decisions.

G: He chose to go to Jerusalem, knowing he would only be arrested and killed.

S: He didn't run away from the cross.

G: If Jesus has called you to do something, he will be with you as you step out. And he will be your strength and joy, even if some pain and suffering is involved.

S: (nods his head, relaxes).... I will be where Jesus is. And he will be with me.

G: Yes.

S: Here I am Lord, send me.

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