

Home Group Helps

Jonah 3:1-10

Jonah and the Mercy of God – Part 4

I. The Recommissioning of Jonah (v.1-2) – ¹ Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ² “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.”

II. The Preaching of Jonah (v.3-4) – ³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. ⁴ Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

III. The Response of Nineveh (v.5-9) – ⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. ⁶ The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷ And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, ⁸ but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹ Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.”

IV. The Mercy of God (v.10) – ¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

1. Launching Question(s):

- What is a memorable sermon you have listened to? What aspect of it particularly impacted you?
- Why is it important to always remember that repentance is a gift from God?

2. Observation Question(s):

- How did Jonah arrive at this stage in the narrative? How is his response to God's second call different than his first?
- Jonah gave the specific message to Nineveh that God gave to him. How would you describe the essence of his sermon? How is it similar/different from sermon's given nowadays?
- Why do you think the writer of this book stated the belief of the Ninevites before any of their other actions of response?
- In what ways are the Ninevites a good example for us regarding a proper response to sound preaching? (Read Matthew 12:38-41)

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- What does Jonah's immediate response to God's recommissioning teach us about the importance of spiritual discipline? (Read Proverbs 3:11-12)
- What does it mean to believe in (have faith in) God according to this passage?
- What are the practical ways that the Ninevites use to show their true contrition. Are these essential actions for all Christians? If so, which ones?

- If God never changes and always remains the same (read 1 Samuel 15:29 & Malachi 3:6), then how should we understand verse 10 which says that, “God relented [repented] of the disaster” that He said would happen to Nineveh?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- What is a proper, biblical view of preaching? Do you struggle with viewing preaching in this way? How can we continue to cultivate a high view of preaching in our church?
- How have you shown genuine repentance and remorse over your sin in your past? What did that look like?

5. Application Question(s):

- How do you need to respond to the Lord with belief and repentance this week?

April 16th, AD 2023