

Jonah 2:10-3:10

The Word at Work

Hurled into action ...

I. A Harbinger of Wrath

- A. A Desperate City
- B. An Ominous Warning

II. An Astonishing Response

- A. Who They Heard
- B. What They Did

III. One Greater than Jonah

- A. Jesus the Prophet
- B. Hardened Hearts
- C. Ears to Hear

... with hope for sinners.

Children, Listen ...

1. How did Jonah get onto the beach?
2. What did God tell Jonah to do?
3. What did Jonah do? How was that different from last time God told him to do that?
4. What did the people of Nineveh do when they heard God's message?
5. What should people do when they hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

One Greater than Jonah

What happens in Nineveh when Jonah finally does what he was told to do is nothing short of miraculous. The text makes it clear that they "believed" God. The message they heard really no sweetness to it at all, it simply warned them of an awful overthrow if they did not mend their ways. They got it and repented with fasting immediately. The king took it a step further and not only formally enforced fast from water, but he even called a fast for the animals! How long their repentance would last is yet to be seen, but for this generation it was genuine enough for God to respond by showing mercy and withholding His devastating wrath from them. Jesus refers to this remarkable even by way of rebuke to people who heard Him preach and saw His miracles, but still did not repent and believe in Him. Can you imagine?! The people of Nineveh stand in judgment condemning those who have hardened their hearts against the Savior.

One can't help but hear the words of the Psalmist as echoed by the writer of Hebrews – directed, mind you, to God's people ...

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore, I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.' As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'" Hebrews 3:7-9

Hear today: there is wrath for the unrepentant – grace for the broken and humbled sinner who hears God, believes in the Lord Jesus, and casts himself on His mercy with the help of the Holy Spirit.

May the "men of Nineveh" be silenced in wonder at the grace shown to sinners like us.