

Lessons from the World's Worst Missionary

The Greatest Revival in History – Jonah 3

God's Renewed Call (v. 1-2)

The really encouraging truth here is that Jonah's disobedience hasn't canceled the call. We can learn several important truths from this:

1. God doesn't hold grudges.
2. God doesn't lighten the load.
3. God doesn't give up.

Jonah's Simple Message (v. 3-4)

Jonah goes and begins to preach in this pagan city. His message is very simple. *"Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown"* (v. 4). That's it. That was his whole message. It is eight words in English and only 4 words in Hebrew.

Nineveh's Sudden Repentance (v. 5-9)

Notice what happened when Jonah preached: The Ninevites believed God (v. 5).

God's Gracious Response (v. 10)

Sometimes we stumble over this because some older translations say that God "repented." A better word would be "relented." *God always intended to show mercy once the people turned from their evil ways.* He threatened judgment (which they richly deserved) knowing that He would gladly pardon them once they turned to Him.

In closing let us consider these words of Jesus: *"The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here"* Luke 11:32.