

Reflection and Discussion

Sermon Series **Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets**
Sermon Title When the wicked aren't destroyed
Bible Texts Jonah 3-4
Date May 28, 2023

CONNECT – Getting to know one another

- Question 1: How can a righteous God give grace to people we think are truly evil?
Question 2: Describe a time you obeyed God with a bad attitude.

EQUIP – Understanding God's word

After some special transportation, Jonah was finally willing to preach to Nineveh.

Chapter three – Nineveh's repentance

- Question 3: Jonah received God's grace and a second opportunity to obey. Did Jonah obey willingly or begrudgingly?
Question 4: What did the king of Nineveh command his people to give up?
Question 5: Why did the king single out violence in his command for national repentance?
Question 6: Given Nineveh's reputation as a ruthless oppressor, how would you describe Nineveh's response to Jonah's message?
Question 7: Why did Jesus use Nineveh's response as an example to the Pharisees? (Matthew 12:38-42)

Chapter four – Jonah's anger

- Question 8: How did Jonah respond when he saw Nineveh's repentance?
Question 9: When Jonah spoke of God's mercy, was he praising God? (4:2)
Question 10: Jonah pleads with God to take his life. What was behind that strange request?
Question 11: What outcome would have made Jonah happy? Why?
Question 12: Did God speak sternly or compassionately to Jonah? Why do you think he did so?
Question 13: How is mankind's understanding of justice and mercy different from God's? (Exodus 33:19)
Question 14: Jonah sat down in the blistering desert sun to see what God would do to Nineveh. How did God show compassion to this angry man?

Question 15: Facing another day in the scorching sun, Jonah's vine died. What did the vine reveal about Jonah's attitude?

Question 16: What was God's final question to Jonah?

Question 17: Considering Jonah as a person, how would you describe his most significant weaknesses? Are you vulnerable to being a Jonah?

Question 18: What is your reaction to the book of Jonah? What is the truth that God was trying to get Jonah to understand, and why is it so important for us right now?

DISCIPLESHIP – Becoming and doing

Question 19: Why is it dangerous for us to define any group of people as "the enemy"? (Eph 6:12)

Question 20: Are we sometimes wishing that God's judgment would fall on certain "other" people? In what ways is that damaging to the church and to the ministry of the gospel?

Question 21: Have you ever been angry with God? How did you work that out with him, or do you need to talk to him further about it?

Question 22: What are some ways you can show compassion to marginalized people?

Question 23: How can you strengthen your spiritual foundation so you will have courage to obey when called by God?