



The Compassion of God

Repent literally means to “turn”. You are thinking one thing and you turn to think another. You are behaving in one way and you turn to behave in another way. To repent is to turn your thoughts and your behavior towards God.

1. God of _____ Chances

The word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time... v1

God still wants to use you. God still wants to give you a life of abundance (John 10:10), you just have to trust him for what abundance truly means. “Arise, go to...” your Nineveh.

*“Jonah **began to go** into the city...” V4*

This phrase “began to go” v4 comes from two Hebrew words that mean “letting loose”.

“For Jonah it is not simply a matter of ‘getting started’, but of releasing to God his reservations about this mission.” Bruckner

Jonah let **loose of his reservations and let God use him.**

2. Nineveh _____ (v5-9)



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“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.” V5

Authentic vs inauthentic repentance.

A decision is not authentic without the evidence of acting on that decision. (“... what they did... turned from evil” v10)

Good works do not get you saved but good works are evidence of an authentic turning (repentance) to God. (James 2:18)

3. God Sees What you Do With _____

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. Jonah 3:10

God has perfect justice and compassion at the right time.

“He changes his mind precisely because his will to change and save the world is unchangeable, and the world is continually turning away from Him.” Bruckner

The timing and the weight of God’s justice and compassion originate from Him. We need to trust whatever and whenever we receive either from God. The King of Nineveh humbly acknowledges this when he says “Who knows?” (cf. 2 Sam 12:22)

*“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that **all should reach repentance.**” 2 Pet 3:9*

Unlike Jonah, “God is free from the necessity of strict justice and can pursue a better justice in his unrelenting love for his creation.” Bruckner

You never know when someone is ready to receive the mercy of God. Let loose of reservations and let God use you!

Become a Christ Follower Today

Admit: Sin

Believe: Cross

Choose: To follow Christ

Answers: Second, Repented, Compassion
Resource: The Prodigal Prophet by Timothy Keller

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Community Group Discussion Questions

Jonah Week 5

If you are a Christian, is there a part of your family history or personal story that makes you an “unlikely” Christ follower and why?

Read Jonah 3:1-10

Jonah finds himself spit out onto dry land and making the long trek to Nineveh. Scripture doesn't tell us how long he walked or what he thought along the way, but he certainly had time to think. Our emotions, plans, or thoughts can really run the gambit when we have “lots of time to think”. Share about what it looks like for you when you have plenty of time to think. (over think, emotional roller coaster, you need lots of time to process?)

Read Nahum 3:1-4 (This passage takes place after our story of Jonah.)

In light of this passage regarding Nineveh, how do you respond to Jonah’s actions and attitude?

Contrast this impending destruction with Jonah 3:10 when God relented.

Reread Jonah 3:4

Discuss the significance of the number of days given.

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Read Matthew 4:17; 12:39-41

What makes repentance easy for some and near impossible for others?

Repentance is hardly a one and done occurrence for believers.
What in your life do you need to turn away from and turn back to God with new or forgotten habit, behavior, or way of thinking/doing?

Journaling prompt: Who in my life have I written off as beyond repentance?
My compassion and willingness to offer second chances has _____
limits. My breaking point to offer a second chance is: _____.
Share your thoughts if willing.

Take time in your groups for personal reflection and prayer regarding those things you need to repent of and surrender to God.

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