

From rebellion to repentance

Jonah 3:1-10

Big Idea: God will give you a second chance; so, choose to change the direction of your life and receive mercy.

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." 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!" 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." 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. (Jon 3:1-10 ESV)

Big Idea: God will give you a second chance; so, choose to change the direction of your life and receive mercy.

From rebellion to repentance.

1. Repent like Jonah (vv. 1-3).
2. God judges rebellion (v. 4).
3. Repent like Nineveh (vv. 5-9).
4. God meets repentance with mercy (v. 10).

1. Repent like Jonah (vv. 1-3).

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." 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.

Repent like Jonah (vv. 1-3).

- i. God expects obedience (Deu 4:6-8; Exo 19:5-6).
- ii. Imperfect people repent (vv. 1:1-3; 2; 3:1-3; 4:2)
- iii. Repent: a change of direction (Mt 3:2; 4:17).

3 Steps to Repentance.

- i. Identify the direction of your life.
- ii. Align your life towards God.
- iii. Trust God's way.

2. God judges rebellion (v. 4).

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!"

Jesus saves us from judgement.

- i. The wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23).
- ii. The wrath of God is against all ungodliness (Rom 1:18).
- iii. The wrath of God remains on the unbeliever (John 3:36).
- iv. Fear God, who can destroy both soul and body (Mt 10:28).
- v. The hard hearted are storing up wrath for themselves (Rom 2:5).

The gospel is a radical message.

- i. It's an absolute truth claim of God's grace and justice.
- ii. The gospel demands a response.
- iii. Christians share the gospel (Mt 28:19-20).

Share the radical message (Rom 10:10-15).

- i. Christ sends his followers.
- ii. Followers proclaim the gospel.
- iii. People hear the gospel.
- iv. Hearers believe the gospel.
- v. Believers call out to God.
- vi. Those who call receive salvation.

3. Repent like Nineveh (vv. 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 ... 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.

Repent like Nineveh.

- i. Recognized your sin.
- ii. Make a radical change.
- iii. Call out to God for mercy.

4. God meets repentance with mercy (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.

God shows grace upon grace.

- i. Jesus brings grace upon grace (John 1:16).
- ii. God shows mercy to rebels (Deut 4:30-31).
- iii. Blasphemers, persecutors, and insolent opponents receive grace (1Tim 1:13).
- iv. God offers us mercy when we need help. (Heb 4:16).
- v. God postpones judgement so we can repent (2Pt 3:9).

Change the direction of your life
and receive mercy.