

Second Chances

Jonah Series

May 31, 2015

INTRODUCTION

The story of Jonah is more than just a cautionary tale about the consequences of running away from God, and it's more than just about being obedient to God. The book of Jonah paints a beautiful picture of the Gospel: *"We're on the right road to better understanding it when we realize that Jonah is a storied presentation of the Gospel, a story of sin and grace, of desperation and deliverance. It reveals the fact that while you and I are great sinners, God is a great Savior, and that while our sin reaches far, His grace reaches farther."* – Tullian Tchividjian

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Jonah 2:10. How do you think Jonah felt after being inside the belly of the great fish for three days and nights? What would be the first thing you would want to do if you were in his shoes?
2. Read Jonah 3:1-2. What happened right after Jonah was vomited onto dry land? Why do you think God did this? What does this reveal about God and heart for the Ninevites? What was His priority?
3. Read Jonah 3:3-4. How did Jonah respond to God's call the second time around? Do you think he learned his lesson? What was the message that God told him to preach to Nineveh?
4. The word "overturn" in the original language is the Hebrew word "*haphak*", which can be understood as to overturn and destroy, or to overturn and change (turn back around). Why is this word so significant in helping us understand the message that God gave to the people of Nineveh?
5. Read Jonah 3:5-9. How did the people respond to the message? What do you think compelled them to respond in this way? When was the last time you responded to God in this way?
6. How did God respond in Jonah 3:10? Considering the reputation that the Assyrians had (ref. Jonah 1:1-2), what does this say about God?

CONCLUSION

The people of Nineveh recognized and acknowledged their need for God upon hearing the Word of God preached to them, and they responded with genuine remorse, repentance and worship. Why is it that we have such a difficult time responding to God in this way? Read what LORD God said to Solomon in 2 Chronicles 7 right before he assumed the throne: *"4 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."* Perhaps God is asking us to do the same.

"The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness." – Psalm 103:8 NASB