

# The God of Second Chances

Jonah 3:1-10

## Introduction

### I God Recommissioned Jonah To Preach

- A. God's Word came to Jonah a 2<sup>nd</sup> time - Jonah 1:1
  - 1. **Go** to the great city of Nineveh - 2 Pet 3:9
  - 2. **Proclaim** God's message - Jer 26:2-3
- B. Jonah **obeyed** the God's Word - Jn 14:21; Ps 112:1
  - 1. He **went** to Nineveh
    - a. An important city
    - b. Required a 3 day visit
  - 2. He **proclaimed** God's word
    - a. "40 days and Nineveh will be overturned"
      - 1. It was **direct** - Matt 23:37
      - 2. It was **simple** - 1 Cor 15:3-4
      - 3. It was **effective** - Is 55:10-11

### II Nineveh's Response To God's Word

- A. The response of Nineveh's **people**
  - 1. They **believed** God - Jn 1:11-12
  - 2. They declared a **fast** - Esther 4:16
  - 3. They put on **sackcloth** - Esther 4:1-3
- B. The response of Nineveh's **king**
  - 1. His **personal** response - 1 Pet 5:6
    - a. He rose from his throne
    - b. He took off his royal robe
    - c. He covered himself in sackcloth
    - d. He sat down in the **dust**
  - 2. His **royal** response - 2 Chron 20:3-4
    - a. He proclaimed a total fast
    - b. He encouraged the wearing of sackcloth
    - c. He exhorted the people to **call on** God
    - d. He exhorted the renouncing of **evil** ways
      - Is 55:6-7; Joel 2:12-14; James 4:6-10

### III God's Merciful Response

- A. The actions that changed God's heart:
  - 1. They **responded** to God's Word - Lk 11:28
  - 2. They **turned** from their evil ways - 2 Cor 7:10
- B. The actions of God's changed heart
  - 1. He had **compassion** on them - Is 30:18; Lk 15:18ff
  - 2. He **relented** from bringing judgment - Jer 18:7-10; 26:13; Is 55:7

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Share a time in your Christian life when God gave you "a second chance." What happened?
2. How did God deal with this pouting, self-serving, self-absorbed, disobedient, compassionless prophet? How would you have dealt with him? How are you like him?
3. Consider for a few moments the connection between the act of obedience and the attitude of obedience? Is it possible to have the one without the other? Which is your life most marked by? What steps can you take this week to advance in this area?
4. The Ninevites responded to God's Word by believing Him, declaring a fast and repenting of their sins. Is there anything in your life today that the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about? Are you ready to humble yourself before God and repent?
5. When was the last time you fasted and prayed about something? What were the circumstances? What was the outcome? Why do you think fasting is so uncommon in the church today?
6. Are there people you wouldn't want to see in heaven? Why? Based on God's heart for the Ninevites, how do you think God feels about them? What does this reveal about God?

**BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE**

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