

“Gracious God of Second Chances”

Jonah 3

IMAGINE Going for Swim at Mahukona

Huge fish come near shore/very near – Spits something Near PIER

GO & SEE - TERRIBLE SMELL – WRAPPED IN SEAWEED

A Man!! Living & Breathing / Greeting Party for Prophet JONAH?? –

REAL EVENT! / HIGH POINT of story of Jonah

SERIES OF GREATER MIRACLES OF GOD

- of Fish – swallowed and preserved a man
- inside Fish – man’s heart changed - stubbornness to servanthood

Nineveh – Hearts of many Thousands Wonderfully Changed by God

Great Revival in History – Whole city Bow to Living GOD in 3 Days Number?? Thousands?

Million? 4.11 120,000 Little Kids > OHANA

1. Instrument of Revival

God could have easily delivered Jonah on beach and LEFT HIM THERE

OR ALLOWED Consequences of Jonah’s Choices to PLAY Out

If Jonah got what Wanted, HEBREW Flavored FISH Food in Mediter.

REASONABLE for GOD to Say “bye bye, Jonah, have a nice life”

a. Second Chance

GRACE of God Defies Reason v. 1 the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time /
MERCIFUL Character of GOD....

2.9 From Fish, Jonah: “I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the Lord.’”

God is SAVIOR / God is SOVEREIGN > His WILL Will be DONE

Work of God CANNOT be SCHEDULED by Us

Presumptuous to Schedule REVIVAL or HEALING Service

All Revival & Healing in Scripture = Spontaneous, Unscheduled

It is solely because we have a God of persistent grace that we are serving Him today...as we noticed in Jonah’s case, God is determined that his servants will serve Him, no matter what it costs Him, and no matter what it may cost them! Sinclair Ferguson

b. Same Command

v. 2 “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” >
Not MESSAGE We think Appropriate!

v 3 So Jonah arose & went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord

SHARP CONTRAST >> 1.3 “But Jonah ran away”

v. 2 “Go and Preach” – same command – no wiggle room //

Kids THROW TANTRUM to GET PARENTS to CHANGE MIND

GOD a WISE FATHER, UNMOVED Screaming Kid Rolling on Floor

NO Point in Running Away from God / He will catch up to you

STILL HAVE TO FACE WHAT YOU ARE RUNNING FROM

God as concerned about the servant as He is about the service

“Sometimes you feel like quitting and running away, and that’s the worst thing you can do. Resigning from your church, giving up your Sunday school class, leaving the committee, or abandoning the choir will never solve the problems or meet the needs in your heart. You’ll probably meet the same situation and the same people (with different names) in the next ministry you accept. Why? Because God won’t let His servants run away. God is determined that His children be “conformed to the image of His Son” (Romans 8.29) and He will keep working until He accomplishes His purpose.”
Warren Wiersbe

c. Shaped by the Cross

Jesus: “For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” Matthew 12.40

OUT of Christ’s Weakness came the Saving Power of His Ministry

Jesus: “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” John 12.24

Xtian must DIE to Own Agenda / FOLLOW God is to DIE to Yourself

The word can only come with power to our hearers
when it has come with power to our own hearts. John Owen

Gladys Aylward – Missionary to China – late 1800’s – “I wasn’t God’s first choice for what I’ve done in China...I don’t know who it was...It must have been a man...a well-educated man. I don’t know what happened. Perhaps he died. Perhaps he wasn’t willing...And God looked down and saw Gladys Aylward...and God said, “Well, *she’s willing!*”

Jonah was by no means perfect. He had many elements of sin clearly visible in his life,

clinging to him as tightly as the seaweed...But something had happened to him. Something in him had been slain by the grace of God. It was out of Jonah's inner death that life was born in Nineveh.
Sinclair Ferguson

2. Impact of Revival

Actual Site of Ancient city of Nineveh was LOST for CENTURIES
Huge Mound upper Tigris R. Valley – “Neby Yunas” Prophet Jonah
When archeologists dug under that mound – found Ancient Nineveh

One pt in their History Nineveh worshipped a Fish-god named Dagon Perhaps 1 Reason for Reception > Jonah swallowed by Fish

...famine, solar eclipse, civil war 1st half of Eighth C in Assyria another reason people of Nineveh prepared to listen to Jonah
Joyce Baldwin

Only Speculate about Cultural/Historical Preparation by GOD

a. Word of God Made Known

v. 4 “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

8 word sermon / Hebrew only 5 words – Maybe Jonah could Work Here

Probably SUMMARY of Sermon // LUKE summarizes 19 Sermon Acts

Words Holy Spirit drove INTO Hearts > No Escape God's Judgment

JONAH'S SERMON – NOT LONG, ELOQUENT, INTELLECTUAL

THOSE THINGS DID NOT MATTER – God's Word / God's Spirit

Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?
Jeremiah 23.29

b. Message Applied “3 day mission” >> 1.1 “great city of Nineveh”

v. 3 “Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, 3 days' journey in breadth.”– WHY 3 Days??

QUESTIONS “who is this God, what is His name?”

Perhaps PEOPLE Stopped him – WANTED TO HEAR MORE??

Did not my words... which I commanded my servants the prophets, overtake your forefathers? "Then they repented and said, `The LORD Almighty has done to us what our ways and practices deserve"
Zechariah 1.6

c. True Repentance – SHOWN BY CHANGED LIVES

HOLY HUSH QUIETED the BUSTLE & NOISE OF NINEVEH

Sin NOT just What we DO, SAY, & THINK – WHO WE ARE

SIN does NOT Make Us SINNERS – SIN because we're SINNERS

NO True Belief without Some CORRESPONDING ACTION

Ninevites believed and put on sackcloth – signs of repentance

vs. 5-8 They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 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, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. > **Even the ANIMALS Repented!!**

Unusual KING who LEADS the NATION in Repentance!

Like King DAVID who REPENTED before Israel and their Lord

V. 8 Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.

SIGN of Genuine WORK of God was LETTING JONAH LIVE

Foreigner Walked across City for 3 Days > Announcing their DOOM!

When Jeremiah Prophesied God's Judgment upon JUDAH > KILL him!

Having been Humbled by God / Nineveh called on Him for MERCY!

3. Initiator of Revival

a. Divine Encounter v. 5 the people of Nineveh **believed God**

Messenger was JONAH / thru JONAH had Meeting with GOD

HEARD the VOICE of GOD thru the VERNACULAR of JONAH

CONTACT with JONAH but CONFRONTATION with GOD

POWER came from GOD – PRAISE goes to GOD

GOD CONSCIOUSNESS SWEEPED ACROSS NINEVEH

Paul in Thessalonica “our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction”
1 Thessalonians 1.5

v. 9 “Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.”

KING of Nineveh NOT have MATURE, STRONG, or FULL Faith

BUT he was EXPRESSING REAL Faith – GOD GIVEN Faith

“Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through preaching
Christ” Romans 10.17

Jesus: “Jonah was a *sign* to the Ninevites... The men of Nineveh... repented at the preaching of
Jonah” Luke 11.30,32

Salvation NOT in MESSAGE or MESSENGER – God & HIS WORD

b. Divine Empowerment > God : Sent, Kept, Used His Servant

From HELPLESSNESS of Belly of Fish JONAH CONFESSED

“I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay.
Salvation belongs to the LORD!” Jonah 2.9

God EMPOWERED the PREACHER And the PEOPLE:

v. 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.

OLDER Versions English Bible – “God repented of what he planned”

REPENTANCE – word with MORAL CONNOTATIONS

BAD PEOPLE REPENT – GOD REPENTS = GOD IS BAD?

“God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind.
Does he speak and not then act? Does he promise and not fulfill?” Numbers 23.19

NO REAL CONTRADICTION – Judgment on EVIL Nineveh

Conditional Threat – IF Repent wrath will be REMOVED

REPENTANT Nineveh – Change in STANDING before GOD

c. Divine Embrace

Every Refer. to God Repenting in Scripture > Prophecy of Jesus

Foreshadowing of CROSS > Fullness of Justice & Wrath Satisfied

The just and perfectly holy God condemns, and can do no other, but when man repents and
changes, God suffers for having condemned him... He takes upon himself the evil which
was the wages of the man’s sin Jacques Ellul

Only REASON God Withholds WRATH is JESUS CHRIST

Anger of God Against SIN > Exhausted on GOD'S Son on Cross

Our PARDON was Purchased thru His PAIN > Propitiation for SIN

Jonah was SIGN of Salvation / Jesus SECURED Our Salvation

Jesus: 3 Days in GRAVE / SLAIN as PUNISHMENT for our SINS

After 3 Days Jesus ROSE > PROOF Demand for Justice PAID in Full

if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.
1 John 2.1,2

Jesus Hearers FAR GREATER Privilege: HEAR Him, Final Prophet

Great Response to PREACHING of Jonah used by JESUS

Jesus Challenges His Skeptical, Critical, Unbelieving Hearers

The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

Matthew 12.41

Jesus: BE WISE like Citizens of Nineveh / Repent of Sin, Call on God

Jonah 3:1 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.