

Character Study: Jonah

Part 3 – Jonah Preaches in Nineveh

Jonah 3:1-10

What's happening?

- After being released from the fish, God told Jonah once again to go to Nineveh and preach “the message that I tell you.” (3:1)
- Jonah obeyed this time, warning the people of Nineveh that in forty days the city would be overthrown. (3:2-4)
- The people believed Jonah’s message and responded to God by fasting and putting on sackcloth. (3:5)
- The king of Nineveh made a decree that everyone should turn from their evil ways and cry out to God in hopes that the Lord would turn from His anger. (3:6-9)
- Once God saw their repentance, He was pleased and determined not to bring disaster upon the city. (3:10)

What's God doing?

> God gave Jonah a second chance. This is a picture of His grace and mercy, the same grace and mercy that He offered to the people of Nineveh. God was quick to withhold judgment and offer forgiveness to those who genuinely repented.

What's to learn?

→ Our God is a God of second chances. Rebellion and sin do not please the Lord in any way, but it is through repentance from such things that we see the radiance of God’s grace and mercy. Jonah shows that we should never count anyone out from being used of God.

→ Jonah demonstrated complete surrender to the Lord. Not only did he express his desire to follow the Lord’s will, but he also made his intentions a reality by going to Nineveh. And he did so without any complaining! Genuine surrender always leads to obedient action.

→ Jonah’s message was simple and straight to the point. When opportunities arise to share the gospel, sometimes a straightforward message can have the best impact. If you find that you rarely witness because you are afraid you do not know what to say, just focus on keeping your message simple! Let God take care of the rest!