

Repentant People

Jonah Series

What We Know So Far:

- God reveals his desire for Jonah
- Runs away – not interested in this plan
- God pursues Jonah
- Jonah abandons ship
- God spares Jonah – not how we might have thought
- Jonah recognizes and offers obedience
- Jonah Spit up on the beach

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“Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.” Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city—a visit required three days. On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned.” The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust.”

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“Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh:

“By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.” When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.”

3:1-10

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1. Go and give my message!

- 2nd chance – get moving
- clear and compelling
- we have this same call:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matt 28

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2. Important City

- Nineveh center for trade, economy, royal city
- 120 000 people affected
- took 3 days to walk through and give message
- enemy of God's people, wicked and mighty

3. 8 Word Sermon

- 40 more days and Nineveh will be overturned
- no promise of avoiding this, you are done for
- no explanation of the offense or reason

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- the recurring period of time in Scripture
 - 40 days of rain
 - 40 years wandering
 - Elijah 40 days on the run
 - Jesus 40 days of temptation

4. Believed

- recognized the word from almighty God
- belief caused action – terrified
- what they saw as true demanded some response

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5. Repented

- change not only of heart – but of behavior
- declared a fast, humbled appearance, leaders call for change, called out to God
- no mercy promised, only hoped for
- their repentance was not dependant on the promise of salvation – but on the recognition of their sin and the consequences promised.
- 2 Cor. 7:10 *“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”*

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- Jeremiah 18:1-10 *"This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD : "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the LORD came to me: "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it."*

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- God is at work in the affairs of nations
- God will bring down unrepentant evil nations
- God intends for blessing and great things
- That can be thwarted by evil and unrepentance
- God gives his warning, his word
- We must repent and respond

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6. They Experienced Gods Compassion

- when God saw, how they had turned – he did not destroy
 - note the order of this
 - generations of people affected, saved by repentance
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So What

1. We have received God's Word

- heard about the problem of sin
- understand our position of guilt –deserving death
- heard of His love for us – provision of Jesus
- have repented, received forgiveness

2. God has been Clear about our Response

- love me – obey my commands
- go – Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, ends of the earth

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- how beautiful are the feet of those that bring the news

3. God Loves Others

- calls us to love and respond to them
- prepares the soil – we sow the seeds

4. God uses Sinners Like Jonah to Accomplish his Work

- faithful to the call and word is what's required

5. Desires Repentance