

Godly Sorrow

Jonah 3:1-10

“Charles Spurgeon said, ‘Faith and obedience are bound up in the same bundle. He who obeys God, trusts God; and he who trusts God, obeys God.’ When God first called Jonah to go to Nineveh, the son of Amittai simply could not trust that Yahweh was right in extending His mercy by giving the enemies an opportunity to repent. Jonah did not trust that God knew what He was doing.

We have no reason to assume that Jonah had changed his basic prejudices about the Ninevites when his second call came. His harrowing scrape with death in the deep forced the prophet to trust God for his survival. The ‘death-water’ conversion shocked Jonah into promising that he would obey God. And so, God began again with Jonah. The willful prophet ran away from God and, in terrible crisis, ran back to God. Now for a time at least, Jonah ran with God, doing what he was told. Chapter 3 shows us the magnificent results that can happen when we cooperate with God. There is only one way to do anything—God’s way. Obedience is the secret of spiritual power.” Oglivie

- I. In his mercy, God gave Jonah a second chance at living in the joy of obedience and peace. The lessons he learned, are lessons the Lord wants us to learn so that we never have to go through the brokenness Jonah went through. He learned that rebellion never ends well and that it is always better to trust and obey God above self.

Luke 11:28

John 14:21 *Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”*

- II. Jonah’s message to the Ninevites was a message of repentance straight from the mouth of God. The souls of the Ninevites were precious to Him. In his mercy, He did not want anyone to perish in their sin, but everyone to come to repentance. Jonah had to learn that the mercy that was given to him is without prejudice and extends to all who are desperate for it.

Jonah 3:1-10

- A. The power of God's Word opened the eyes of the Ninevites to see their need for repentance. They would never have come to see their need if God had kept His Word from them. His Word never returns void (**Isa. 55:11**). A person is incapable of changing God's way without the power of God's word piercing the soul and spirit to judge the attitude of the heart.

Jonah 3:1-4

Hebrews 4:12

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Peter 3:8-9 ⁸ *But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.* ⁹ *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

- B. The message that God gave the Ninevites was one of imminent judgment if they did not repent. Their response shows us that sin, no matter how bad, has no power over the grace, love and mercy the Lord offers to sinners in need of a Savior.

Jonah 3:5

Romans 6:23

- C. The response of the Ninevites to God's mercy gives us a picture of being broken over sin. In their dismay, revulsion, shock and disgust toward who they were, they humbled themselves before God and cried out to Him with a strong desire to turn from it. They were honest before Him, named it for what it was and wanted nothing to do with it. As his forever saints, we must be aware of sin, keep honest about it, turn to Him, turn from it and stay cleansed so the we remain fit for the Master's use.

Jonah 3:6-10

Romans 3:23

Romans 5:8

1 Jn. 1:8-9

Jer. 18:7-8

Acts 3:19 *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."*