

A Call to Repentance

Jonah 3:1 -5

“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. God’s **hesed** gave Jonah a second chance at living in the joy of His loving kindness through sincere heartfelt repentance and submission to His will. 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 because of not taking His Word seriously. He learned that rebellion never ends well and that it is always better to trust and obey God above self. Jonah’s rebellion teaches us of God’s sovereignty, power, mercy, and the value of God’s loving kindness toward the saved and unsaved alike. Jonah’s God is our God, a merciful and kind God who will never leave nor forsake us (**Heb. 13:5-6**).

Jonah 3:1

Luke 11:28 *He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.*

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. It was the power of God's Word that 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. The souls of the Ninevites were precious to Him, so He spoke to them out of **hesed** love to convince them of their need to repent and surrender their will to His. In essence, God was saying "I don't want you to suffer my wrath against your sin, repent and believe and you will be saved. That message hasn't changed throughout salvation history. He's speaking loudly, if not shouting, to the world that judgment is coming. Look about, read the signs, my coming is immanent, repent and believe upon Jesus so that you will not suffer my wrath against the godlessness that is growing increasingly more and more wicked day by day.

Jonah 3:1-4

Exodus 34:6

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.*

III. In the Hebrew the word for repentance (*shoo-baw*) means to turn back. In the Greek the word for repentance (*metanoia*) means to change one's mind. It involves a recognition of sin, heartfelt remorse for what it is in our lives, a turning from it, and a turning to Christ for forgiveness, cleansing, and salvation from His wrath against it. This is what the Ninevites did. They took God's Word seriously, saw their sin for what it was, humbled themselves before Him, repented and were saved.

Jonah 3:5

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."*

Isa. 30:15 *his is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, ...*