

**GOD'S GRACE**  
**Jonah – Part 3**

**ON TV:** There's a little bit of Jonah in all of us.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** "1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah, son of Amittai: 2 'Go to the great city of Nineveh and **preach against it**, because its **wickedness** has come up before me.'" Jonah 1:1-2

**ON TV:** The reason God wants to warn the Ninevites is because, beyond being a great God, at the core of who He is, He is a **gracious God**. Rather than give anyone what they deserve, He longs to give them what they don't deserve: **grace, forgiveness, and a restored relationship with their Heavenly Father**.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** "But the **Lord provided** a great fish to swallow Jonah and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights." Jonah 1:17

**ON TV/OUTLINE:**

- **Step #1:** There is **DISOBEDIENCE**.
- **Step #2:** We recognize God's **DISCIPLINE**.

**ON TV:** "5b ...Seaweed was wrapped around my head. 6a To the roots of the mountains I sank down: the earth beneath barred me in forever." Johan 2:5b-6a

**ON TV/OUTLINE:**

- **Step #3:** **DISTRESS**
- **Step #4:** We make a **DECISION** to obey.

**ON TV:** "But I, with a **song of thanksgiving**, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed, I will make good." Jonah 2:9

**ON TV/OUTLINE:**

- **Step #5:** **DELIVERANCE**

**ON TV:** "And the Lord commanded the fish, and it **vomited** Jonah onto dry land." Jonah 2:10

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** "The word of the Lord came to Jonah a **second time**." Jonah 3:1

**ON TV:** "...What I have vowed, I will make good...." Jonah 2:9b

**ON TV:** **Grace** = **Underserved favor**

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." Jonah 3:2

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** "3 Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh...4 On the first day, Jonah **started** into the city..." Jonah 3:3-4a

**ON TV:** **Started** = to **untie** or to **loosen**, so that you can go

**ON TV:** "Those who cling to worthless idols **forfeit the grace** that could be theirs." Jonah 2:8

**ON TV:** We can't **stay stuck** in what we're doing or where we are and obey God. We have to **let go**.

**ON TV:** What is **it** that you're holding on to and God is saying, "Go!"? Because **until we untie or loosen our control** of whatever that is, we can never do what God wants us to do.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** "...He proclaimed: 'Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned.'" Jonah 3:4b

**ON TV:** Overturned and **destroyed** or overturned and **changed**

**ON TV:** The clock was ticking regarding the mercy of God. God's mercy is a **limited time offer**.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** "The Ninevites **believed God**. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth." Jonah 3:5

**ON TV:** "We **repent**. We are not even worthy to be in normal clothes. We must be uncomfortable as a continual reminder, a physical reminder **of our sin**."

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** "6 When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, he took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. 7 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 even **eat or drink**. 8 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. 9 **Who knows?** God may yet relent and **with compassion** turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.'" Jonah 3:6-9

**ON TV/OUTLINE:**

- **First:** God gives **ALL** of us the opportunity to come back to Him.
- **Second:** God cares about the **CITY** where we live.

**ON TV:** "'Seek the **peace and prosperity** of the city to which I have carried you into exile. **Pray to the Lord for it**, because if it prospers, you too will prosper. Yes, that is what the Lord Almighty says.'" Jeremiah 29:7

**ON TV/OUTLINE:**

- **Third:** The Ninevites **BELIEVED** and were **CHANGED** by what they heard.

**ON TV:** "Abram believed the Lord, and he **credited it to him as righteousness**." Genesis 15:6

**ON TV/OUTLINE:**

- **Fourth:** The people responded by **REPENTING**.

**ON TV:** "...more than 120,000 people who cannot tell their right hand from their left..." Jonah 4:11a

**ON TV/OUTLINE:**

- **Fifth:** The **LEADER** responded by repenting and fasting and leading the nation to understand what God was up to.
- **Sixth:** God had **COMPASSION** and changed His mind.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** "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." Jonah 3:10

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** **Bottom Line:** At His core, God is a great and gracious God **who loves to bless people**.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** "...I knew that you are a **gracious** and **compassionate** God, **slow to anger**, and **abounding in love**, a God who relents from sending calamity." Jonah 4:2b

**ON TV:** "5 Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name... '6 The Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands and forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin.'" Exodus 34:5-7

**ON TV:** How do **YOU** respond to a God like that?

**ON TV:**

- **#1: Take Him up** on His second chance offer.
- **#2: Believe** what He says.
- **#3: Repent**.
- **#4: Tell** others