

I don't wanna – Well you're gonna – Fine I will – But I won't like it

We're getting the apex of the story where Jonah has arrived at Nineveh...what a journey

- From Gath-Heper to Joppa – Middle of the Mediterranean Sea – Fish – Vomited
- Now if Jonah was yacked out of the fish back around Joppa = 600 miles – 5-6 weeks

Have you ever been asked by God to do something you don't want to do? Married

Jonah has six weeks to sulk his way to a destination he doesn't want to be at

Hate...getting invited to weddings...barely know the person – Wife's Boss's Kid – Ugh

This is Jonah...he's going to do what the Lord commanded...but he's unhappy about it

Jonah should be excited for the opportunity that stands in front of him...its one to preach

- Any one of us should be overjoyed to be able to bring the Good News to someone  
For I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of salvation for everyone who believes

### Big Idea - The Gospel brings revival

The Gospel brings revival to the hardest hearts and turns them into carriers of glory

- Changes people – Changes families – Changes cultures – Changes the world
- Do you believe that about gospel? Are you acting like you believe that about gospel?
- When was the last time you presented it? When was the last time...invite card?

We have all been commissioned and commanded to spread the good news of Jesus

### 1. We should avoid reluctant obedience (v1-3a)

3 Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying,<sup>2</sup> "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." <sup>3</sup> So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. – God sends His Truth through broken messengers

- Here are some words you don't want to here 'The Lord told you a second time'
  - Crazy thing about Jonah...he believes in power of the message...not the recipients
  - Jonah hates Nineveh...sworn enemies of Israel...terrible people...Jonah hates them
- Jonah was reluctant to obey because he didn't like people the Lord was sending him to

Bottom line...Jonah was reluctant to go to Nineveh about how he felt personally

Have you ever seen Apollo 13 – Following protocols – 'I don't feel like burning thrusters'

- Our response should be 'Roger Houston' regardless of how we feel personally
- There are many issues that we could think should be different than biblically teaching
- Ever heard of the 'Jefferson Bible' – Miracles – Divinity – Resurrection – Supernatural
- What parts of the Bible would you cut out because they disagree with you personally
- Here is the only time I'm going to tell you to be like Jonah...It's time you rise and go
- How many times has God told you this is right or that is wrong and you've ignored
  - What if...hear out...you go ahead and agree with God while he works on your heart
- Here is why I tell you this...because a day of your judgment is coming...

And you want to be on the side of 'I believed what God said and I did that'

### 2. We should encourage repentant behavior (v3b-9)

Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. <sup>4</sup> Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" <sup>5</sup> And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

- Jonah splash 5 words Hebrew...translate Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be over thrown
  - We are not told what else Jonah says to them, but this is a threat and a promise
  - If you do not change your evil ways...destruction will come upon you
- This is an act of kindness...to warn you that if you do not change...move you'll get hurt
- This is the call to repentance...if you do not change...if you do not move...you'll get hurt

A lot of times people look at our message of repentance as a judgment on their lives

A call to repentance is not bringing judgment but a call to avoid judgment

If someone was standing on a railroad track, headphones in, not paying attention...

Jonah taught unless you change direction & accept the promise of the Lord...Destruction

- Message was so widely received they collectively called for a fast...reached the King
- <sup>6</sup> The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. <sup>7</sup> And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, <sup>8</sup> but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.

If you're a Bible underliner...underline vs 7-9 then write 'Repentance Defined' by it  
King published a decree in a huge city that all should be covered in sackcloth and call out

- There were three of us pastors sitting around and didn't know what sackcloth was

Sackcloth = Course unrefined goats hair would add ashes for effect – [PICTURE](#)

**Sackcloth was worn as a public declaration of:**

- Mourning and Grief** – Expression of profound sorrow
  - Distress and Desperation** – A plea from divine destruction or calamity
  - Humility** – Contrite heart, acknowledging sin and seeking God's mercy.
- It showed a turning away from pride and a turning towards God in submission

Now...we no longer wear sackcloth and ashes...but we should keep these dispositions

This is the disposition we should have and encourage in others

<sup>9</sup> Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish."

We know with more certainty than the king – We know more than the King = GOSPEL

### 3. We must believe in relentless grace (10)

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

God relented of His anger because of His relentless grace – This is a miracle

I want you to get the gravity of this story of redemption...I need you to understand...

Good deeds don't send you to heaven and bad deeds don't sent you to hell!

- **Flying alive:** Rebel leaders sometimes skinned...their skins were hung on city walls.
- **Impaling:** Victims were impaled on stakes and left on public display.
- **Decapitation:** Heads of enemies were cut off and piled into pyramids or hung walls.
- **Dismemberment:** Hands, feet, noses, ears, and tongues were cut off
- **Burning:** Captives and cities were sometimes burned.
- **Gouging out eyes:** A common form of mutilation.
- **Forced cannibalism/humiliation:** Forcing captors to eat their fallen peers

Not to mention Jonah had run from God and getting a second chance to make...right

These are the worst people on planet earth...they killed for fun and public special

[God only saves wretched people](#)

Jonah is a story about US! We are the ones who run from God...we are the violent

- Do you know the horrible things you have done? And God has paid for all of it

God is in the business of saving sinners and business is good

When you have that one person in your life who you think God will never reach

I want you to think of three things – Nineveh – You – And Jesus

Jesus said, 'Come to me all who are heavy burdened and I will give you rest'

If you are tired in your sin...God is chasing you down with grace

**The Gospel Brings Revival**