

Series: Seas of Grace

C.R. 5-15-22

“Second Chances”

Text: Jonah 3:1-2

Intro: I once played golf with another preacher that I was preaching a revival for who said before we teed off, “The way I do it is, If I take a mulligan, you can have a mulligan”. If you could have a mulligan in life, what or when would you choose to use that mulligan on?

Our last look at Jonah was a man being vomited out on dry land by a great fish of some kind. He has been a man on the run. A disobedient man, and a man out of the will of God. This disobedience has brought him into affliction, and it is out of that affliction we hear him cry out to God (**Jonah 2:2**).

It is out of this prayer and confession and repentance that we find Jonah now on dry land. He by all accounts was let out on good behavior, and God is ready to move on with his once rebellious prophet. It would seem that the heat of affliction will either drive someone to rebel more, and run father away from God, or as in this case run to God. Our text indicates to us that Jonah is now saying “At your service Lord, I am now ready to trust and obey.”

Spurgeon once said, “Faith and obedience are bound up in the same bundle. He who obeys God, trusts God; and he who trust God, obeys God.” There is only one way to do anything----God’s way. Obedience is the secret of spiritual power.

Today let’s examine the second chance (mulligan) of Jonah.

1) God’s Abundant Mercy and Grace

- a. **Question:** If God only gave us one shot at something how many of us would still be able to do what we are doing?
- b. How many of us should still teach, still sing, still serve, still preach?
- c. I would imagine that all over this building today are people who have experienced the beauty of the second chance.

- d. This passage as with any in scripture show us that Almighty God often gives his children and undeserved second chance.
- e. "By paralleling here the book's opening remarks, almost word for word, the author skillfully conveys the idea that Jonah is being offered a new beginning." (Alexander)
- f. To me it is an incredible thing to think that God would use me at all. But to forgive me and give me second chances leaves me without words.
- g. George Morrison said. "The victorious Christian life is a series of new beginnings."
- h. Our Bible is filled with stories of God's forgiveness and restoration. Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, Peter, etc...
- i. **Caution:** However encouraging these examples of restoration are, we should never use this as an excuse for sin.
- j. If you say "Well, I can go on and sin because I know the Lord will forgive me, then you are not aware of the awfulness of sin, and the holiness of God.
- k. **Psalm 130:4** "But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared".
- l. **Wiersbe:** "God in His grace forgives our sins, but God in His government determines that we shall reap what we sow, and the harvest can very costly."
- m. God's making use of us is the best evidence of his being at peace with us. (Matthew Henry)

2) God's Unchanging Command (V.2)

- a. The conversation here is not. "O.K. Jonah, you have worn me down some. Just go pronounce judgment on Nineveh and get out of there so I can destroy them. You were right."
- b. The command here is almost identical to the one we saw in Chapter 1.
- c. The point here is God speaks to him again. Isn't that a wonder. That he would speak to him at all is incredible.
- d. This is a great indicator that Jonah had confessed his sin and turned back to God.

- e. If we are not hearing God speak to us through his word, as we read and study his word, then there could be some unfinished business that needs to be settled with Him.
- f. Notice what he told Jonah. Go to Nineveh (same command) and preach to it the message that I give you. (This has not changed)
- g. God did not change his mind because Jonah pouted about it. The message is the same today. Whosoever will let him/her come.
- h. **Note:** This message is even for those we don't like! Jonah was not commissioned to a different group of people. Same people group, same place.
- i. **Matthew Henry:** Note, The word of God is an unalterable thing, and will not be made to bend to the humours either of its preachers or of its hearers; it shall never comply with their humours and fancies, but they must comply with its truths and laws.
- j. Our command is to "Go Ye therefore, to the whole world".

3) Jonah's Submissive Response (v.3)

- a. It is clear to us now that God has accomplished his purpose in the affliction.
- b. Jonah is now ready to do the thing he was supposed to do.
- c. He had repented, and he has learned that it far better to be in God's will, than to be running from it.
- d. **Note:** Repent does not mean perfection. There is no indication that all of the sudden Jonah is in love with the people of Nineveh.
- e. Jonah had found God to be merciful and gracious to him. God was displeased with Jonah, but he never deserted him.
- f. It was God who controlled the storm, prepared the fish, and rescued Jonah.
- g. Although Jonah was not perfect, he was in a much better place than he was a few days ago.

Conclusion:

- 1) What about us. Has affliction put you in a better place for service? Has the mercy and grace of God prompted you to be about the Father's business?

- 2) Is our prejudice overriding the message of grace and forgiveness?
- 3) Having been given a second chance from God, are we taking advantage of it, or are we taking advantage of his grace and mercy and forgiveness?