

Stepping Out of the Belly of a Whale “Ready for Action” No longer on the Run

Jonah = Name in the Hebrew means Dove.

Jonah’s assignment = Deliver the word of the Lord to his enemies to bring repentance, revival and restoration.

Jonah 3:1 - And the word of the Lord came onto Jonah the second time.

Second change = the opportunity to try it again to correct something to fix it, to get it right.

Quote - sometimes all you need is a second chance because you were not ready for the first time:

Reasons why you might not have been ready:

- ◆ Fear
- ◆ Generational curse prevailing
- ◆ Unteachable spirit
- ◆ Timing
- ◆ In the wrong place, but the right time
- ◆ Unsure of oneself
- ◆ Feeling of not knowing enough spiritually

▲ Here we see the Lord speaks to Jonah a **second time**...he’s given Jonah another opportunity to realign to the purpose and the plan of God or to reconnect to his assignment. I believe the purpose of our coming together in this café for four weeks is to give you a second chance to realign to the plan of God for your ministry.

Jonah 2:3 - Arise, go onto Nineveh, that great city, and preach onto it the preaching that I’ve bid thee Nineveh exceeding great city (God’s word) Nineveh was the most wealthiest city of that day populating at over 600,000 people.

▲ God says that Nineveh was a great city, so God could see the potential of Nineveh, but Nineveh could not see the potential in its self and many times God sends us to a nation or people, because God sees what they cannot seeGod can see the greatness of people, places, and things are that they themselves cannot see and God use’s us as a tool to harvest out that greatness, and here we see that in Jonah’s assignment.

Jonah 3:4 - And Jonah began to enter into the city, a day’s journey, and he **CRIED**, ...and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

◆ Here we see Jonah entering back into the city realigning back with purpose. He's not even in the city, he's just taking that first step in entering and the scripture says, "he **CRIED**" Why?... Because sometimes there has to be that breaking of that last layer of shell. Here that crying represents that place of humility, breaking surrender, and submission to God, the breaking of that last membrane of shell.

Psalms 34:15 - The eyes of the Lord are upon the Righteous, and his ears are open on to their cry.

Just a thought FYI = When we cry, it releases oxytocin and endorphins that release a sense of calm in the body, and also can alleviate emotional pain 😊 also crying activates the parasympathetic nervous system which helps the body to relax.

◆ So think about it here, Jonah is having a metamorphosis where he is exchanging his rebellion for the obedience to God. He breaks down and begins to cry...that not only break some of that last layer of resistance, but because God is so awesome in the creation of this body, it also releases a sense of calm for Jonah, to relax and realize that he is ready to step into the service for the King. 😊

Jonah 3:5-8 - So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands.

➡ Sackcloth = Very coarse material, made of black goat's hair or camel's hair, this material made the garment very uncomfortable to wear.

➡ Ashes = Ashes from the fire residue of burnt sacrifice's palm leaves, etc. It is a symbol of repentance and brokenness.

◆ We see the king, which is the highest authoritative voice in the city; literally disrobes his self, his royal regalia, and puts on sack cloth and wipes his face with ashes and goes to the center of the city to release a visual of corporate repentance and humility before God.

◆ Here we see a national repentance... on display everyone repenting at the same time.

◆ The people of Nineveh knew the plan of God to wipe them out, but yet they went into repentance, nearly hoping for God's mercies to be released.

◆ We see that animal owners and farmers dress their animals in sackcloth and wipe their animals with ashes.....animals did not even have any awareness of what was going on but the owner of that animal New in order for me to get the attention of God, everything in my house has to turn to God in repentance.

◆ Everyone is commissioned to turn from violence, and from evil.

Daniel 9:3 - Then I turn my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and plead for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes

Ezra 8:23 - So we fasted and petition to our God about this, and he answered our prayer.

Jonah 3:8-10

◆ Not only do we begin this chapter with Jonah getting a second chance, but here now we see the people of Nineveh, God giving them a second chance and having mercy upon them.

▣ **Lamentations 3:21-23** - But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness of the Lord.

▣ **Romans 3:23** - For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

▣ **1 Peter 2:1-3** - So rid yourself of all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, any, and all slander. Like newborn infants, desire the pure spiritual milk, so that you may grow by it for your salvation, since you have taste it, that the Lord is good.

◆ Even as there was a second chance for Jonah and a second chance for the people of Nineveh. Today, God presents to you a second chance, a second chance to move out, and the things that he has called you to do, a second chance without hypocrisy, without slander, He's offered you an opportunity to come again as a newborn. He can feed you his word and realign you for this season of purpose.

● Next week ...Topic "Why am I angry with God?"