

# THE POWER OF OBEDIENCE

## Jonah: Part 3

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*“Then the LORD ordered the fish to spit Jonah out onto the beach.”  
(Jonah 2:10, NLT)*

*Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time: <sup>2</sup> “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you.”*

*<sup>3</sup> This time Jonah obeyed the Lord’s command and went to Nineveh, a city so large that it took three days to see it all. <sup>4</sup> On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: “Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!” <sup>5</sup> The people of Nineveh believed God’s message, and from the greatest to the least, they declared a fast and put on burlap to show their sorrow.*

*<sup>6</sup> When the king of Nineveh heard what Jonah was saying, he stepped down from his throne and took off his royal robes. He dressed himself in burlap and sat on a heap of ashes. <sup>7</sup> Then the king and his nobles sent this decree throughout the city:*

*“No one, not even the animals from your herds and flocks, may eat or drink anything at all.*

*<sup>8</sup> People and animals alike must wear garments of mourning, and everyone must pray earnestly to God. They must turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence. <sup>9</sup> Who can tell? Perhaps even yet God will change his mind and hold back his fierce anger from destroying us.”*

*<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened. (Jonah 3:1-10, NLT)*

## Lessons from the Reluctant Prophet

### 1. He’s the God of SECOND CHANCES!

*“Then the LORD spoke to Jonah a second time.” (Jonah 3:1, NLT)*

*“Where is another God like you, who pardons the guilt of the remnant, overlooking the sins of his special people? You will not stay angry with your people forever, because you delight in showing unfailing love.” (Micah 7:18, NLT)*

### 2. Our message is POWERFULLY SIMPLE.

*“On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: “Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!”” (Jonah 3:4, NLT)*

*“I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.” (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, NLT)*

*“For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the **power of God** at work, saving everyone who believes...” (Romans 1:16, NLT)*

*GOD: “so also is my word. I send it out, and it **always produces fruit**. It shall accomplish all I want it to and prosper everywhere I send it.” (Isaiah 55:11, The Living Bible, Paraphrased)*

**3. God is working in their HEART but waiting for you to do your PART.**

*“The people of Nineveh believed God’s message, and from the greatest to the least...” (Jonah 3:5, NLT)*

*“And when I am lifted up from the earth, **I will draw everyone** to myself.” (John 12:32, NLT)*

*“And when [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will **convict** the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment.” (John 16:8, NLT)*

*“...God is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost, but he wants all people to change their hearts and lives.” (2 Peter 3:9, NCV)*

**4. We are responsible for TELLING; God is responsible for TURNING.**

*“But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?” (Romans 10:14, NLT)*

*“I declare today that I have been faithful. If anyone suffers eternal death, it’s not my fault, for I didn’t shrink from declaring all that God wants you to know.” (Acts 20:26–27, NLT)*

**5. They need to see the MIRACLE before they hear our MESSAGE.**

*“Whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation. The old way of living has disappeared. A new way of living has come into existence.” (2 Corinthians 5:17, GW)*

*“A number of you know from experience what I’m talking about, for not so long ago you were [living in sin]. Since then, you’ve been cleaned up and given a fresh start by Jesus, our Master, our Messiah, and by our God present in us, the Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 6:11, MSG)*

*“So you see, it isn’t enough just to have faith. You must also do good to prove that you have it. Faith that doesn’t show itself by good works is no faith at all—it is dead and useless.” (James 2:17, The Living Bible)*

**ACTION STEP**

HOME Class