

THE GOD OF SECOND CHANCES

Jonah 3:1-2

God does a work in you before He does a work through you.

God doesn't give up on us. Here is your second chance.

Proverbs 28:13 (NLT) "People who conceal their sins will not prosper. But if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy"

Another translation of this proverb says, "He gets another chance" (TLB).

"God turns broken pieces into masterpieces"

From chapter 1: The word of the lord, the servant of the lord, the mission of the lord, the presence of the lord.

I. GET BACK TO THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD. YOU HAVE A SECOND CHANCE TO BE HAPPY. (JONAH 3:1)

1. God is the ultimate source of happiness and purpose.

i. *Psalm 16:11 (NKJV)¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

ii. *Acts 2:28 (ESV)²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'*

2. Will God take me back? Yes! He knew you would fail and return even before you did. (Peter)

i. *Matthew 18:21-22 (NKJV)²¹ Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"²²*

Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

ii. *Luke 22:32 (NKJV)* ³² *But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”*

iii. *Mark 16:7 (NKJV)* ⁷ *But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”*

3. Will God take me back? Yes! You are his child and at any moment He will run to accept you. (Prodigal)

i. *Luke 15:22–24 (NLT)* ²² *“But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. ²³ And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.*

4. Will God take me back? Yes! It is in the nature and character of God to be merciful and forgive. (Theology)

i. *Lamentations 3:21–23 (ESV)* ²¹ *But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: ²² The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

- ii. [1 John 1:9 \(NKJV\)](#)⁹ *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

II. GET BACK TO THE WORD OF THE LORD. YOU HAVE A SECOND CHANCE TO LISTEN. (JONAH 3:1)

1. Getting back to God means getting back to His word.

- i. [2 Timothy 3:16 \(NASB95\)](#)¹⁶ *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness*
- ii. [Matthew 4:4 \(ESV\)](#)⁴ *But he answered, “It is written, “ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”*
- iii. *“The Bible is not merely a good book about God, it is God actually speaking to us. It is not inspiring, it is inspired. It is not a book with words for academics only, it’s a Person with a voice and he’s wanting to engage with YOU” – [Andrea Thom TGC](#)*
- iv. [John 8:31 \(NKJV\)](#)³¹ *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.*

2. But are you listening?

- i. [Matthew 13:15–16 \(NKJV\)](#)¹⁵ *For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and*

- turn, So that I should heal them.’¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;*
- ii. *2 Timothy 4:3–4 (NKJV)*³ *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*

III. GET BACK TO THE MISSION OF THE LORD. YOU HAVE A SECOND CHANCE TO GO. (JONAH 3:2)

1. The people He wants to reach

- i. *Luke 5:30–32 (NKJV)*³⁰ *And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, “Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”³¹ Jesus answered and said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”*
- ii. *Luke 15:1–2 (NKJV)*¹ *Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him.² And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, “This Man receives sinners and eats with them.”*
- iii. *Luke 15:7 (NKJV)*⁷ *I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.*

2. The message He wants to preach

- i. Mark 16:15 (NLT) ¹⁵ And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.
- ii. 1 Corinthians 15:1–4 (NKJV) ¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,
- iii. 1 Corinthians 2:2 (NKJV) ² For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.
- iv. 2 Timothy 4:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.



Discussion Questions – Week 4

“The God of Second Chances”

Jonah 3:1-2

1. God gives second (and third, and fourth, ...) chances. Do you think that There is ever a time when God says enough is enough and will no longer accept a person back?

2. What are the requirements to being accepted back by God? In other words, what are the necessary steps we must take to be forgiven again?

3. Sometimes we want to come back to God, but we are not willing to follow the commands of God. Why do you think that so many Christians fall away from the faith after a pattern of rebellion and forgiveness like this?

4. We have a second chance at the presence of God (point 1). This is a second chance at happiness. Why do you think so many people think of God as a killjoy rather than the source of true happiness?

5. We have a second chance at the mission of God which is to seek and save the lost. Do you think that all Christians are called to be full time evangelists or missionaries? How can God’s mission be lived out in other occupations and lifestyles?
