

## Destinations: Where Are You Going?

Week 4: Let's Redo This

### Series:

Week 1: Jonah, Nineveh, and God

Week 2: Wrong Way

Week 3: Change of Heart?

Week 4: Let's Redo This

Week 5: A Sad Ending

### Scripture:

Jonah 3

### Motivation (Why You Need to Know It):

*Here's where we are in the Story of Jonah's Rebellion and God's Redemption...*

God Says "Go"

**Jonah 1:1 (NLT)** The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: **2** "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are."

Jonah Says "No"

**Jonah 1:3 (NLT)** But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the Lord by sailing to Tarshish. **4** But the Lord hurled a powerful wind over the sea, causing a violent storm that threatened to break the ship apart.

Jonah Says "Uh Oh"

**Jonah 1:17 (NLT)** Now the Lord had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights.

Jonah Says "Okay"

**Jonah 2:1 (NLT)** Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from inside the fish. **10** Then the Lord ordered the fish to spit Jonah out onto the beach.

*Everyone likes a second chance...*

- Forgiveness after Fallout
- Healing after Hurt
- Love after Loss
- Embrace after Estrangement
- Open Arms after Turned Back

## Information (What You Need to Know):

Jonah and the people of Nineveh get a second chance...

**Jonah 3:1 (NLT)** Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time: **2** “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you.” **3** 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.

## God’s Character in Jonah’s Story...

### God Forgives Those Far from Him

**Jonah 3:4 (NLT)** On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: “Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!” **5** 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.

- Jonah announces 40 days until judgment falls on Nineveh (repenting removed it)
  - Nineveh responds by belief, confession, and sorrow
    - ✓ *Belief* that God is Who He says He is and will do what He says He will do
    - ✓ *Confession* is an acknowledgement of who God said they were and that they were deserving of judgment
    - ✓ *Sorrow* is a desire to be changed from who I am to who God can make me
- Are you far from God? Second chances begin with belief, confession, and sorrow over sin.*

## God Transforms Who Repent and Believe

**Jonah 3:6 (NLT)** 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. **7** 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. **8** 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. **9** Who can tell? Perhaps even yet God will change his mind and hold back his fierce anger from destroying us.”

- Nineveh’s king mourned over sin and commanded the people to mourn
- The hearts, minds, and actions of the people were transformed

**James 2:17 (NLT)** So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

*Do you want to be transformed by God? Second chances begin walking in a new direction through the power of the Holy Spirit*

## God Changes Outcomes

**Jonah 3:10 (NLT)** 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.

- God had threatened judgment
- But based on the Ninevites' repentance, God changed His mind and saved them

Do you want God to change His mind about you? Second chances begin with realizing He is merciful and willing to forgive.

### Application (What You Need To Do):

The way back to God is always through belief, confession, and sorrow over sin.

**Psalm 51:17 (NLT)** The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.