

1. Intro

- Jonah is a role model of how NOT to stand strong!
- God told him to go warn Nineveh of God's judgment for their sin and Jonah sailed in the opposite direction! He spent 3 days in a big fish.
- Today, we'll see God's patience, mercy, and grace for the sinful people of Nineveh. We'll see His great desire for them to believe His message and turn from their sins so that He wouldn't have to punish them. And we'll also see a self righteous and unforgiving Jonah NOT stand strong and resist God's merciful heart for unbelievers.
 - We'll consider whether our heart for unbelievers is like the Lord's or like Jonah's.

2. Text: Jonah 3-4

- **Jonah 2:10** - The LORD **ordered** the fish to **spit** Jonah out onto the beach.
- **Jonah 3:1-4** - God is righteous & **just**, and He judges people for their **sins**.
 - The LORD determined it was time to judge the people of Nineveh for their sin. He was about to destroy all the people of this large city.
- The Lord doesn't want anyone to be **destroyed** (die and go to hell).
 - **Joel 2:12-13** - That is why the Lord says, "Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. 13 Don't tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead. Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish.
 - **2 Peter 3:9 - 9** The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise (for Jesus to return and judge), as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.
- **Jonah 3:5-10** - The Lord forgives sin and **withholds** his judgment on those who **believe** His salvation message.
 - We're not told what exactly the message was that God told Jonah to tell the people of Nineveh, but we know they believed it!
- True belief in God's messages results in a change of **behavior**.

- **Jonah 4:1-4** - Jonah was very angry, and he complained about the Lord's **compassion** and **unfailing love** toward the sinful people of Nineveh.
 - Jonah was self righteous.
 - Whose attitude toward the people of Nineveh was right, the Lord's or Jonah's?
- Jonah 4:5-11 - Jonah felt sorry for **himself**, the Lord felt sorry for the **120,000 people** in spiritual darkness.
 - Jonah's priorities were not in line with God's priorities.
 - Jonah wanted the destruction of 120,000 people. God wanted 120,000 changed hearts and lives.
- God loves ALL people (the good, the bad, the ugly) and sent **Jesus** to provide a way to **rescue** all of them from the penalty for their sin.
 - **Mark 2:15-17**
 - **Romans 5:6-8**

3. Application

- Humbly and gratefully thank the Lord for His great compassion, mercy, and unfailing love for you.
 - **Romans 3:23** - "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."
- If you haven't yet, believe God's salvation message. He is warning you right now. He brought you here so you too could hear His warning and believe his rescue plan!
- Followers of Jesus, ask God to give us "His eyes" for people so that we look at them the way He does (not like Jonah did!).
- Make steps to prepare and equip ourselves for sharing God's message of salvation with those who don't know it yet.