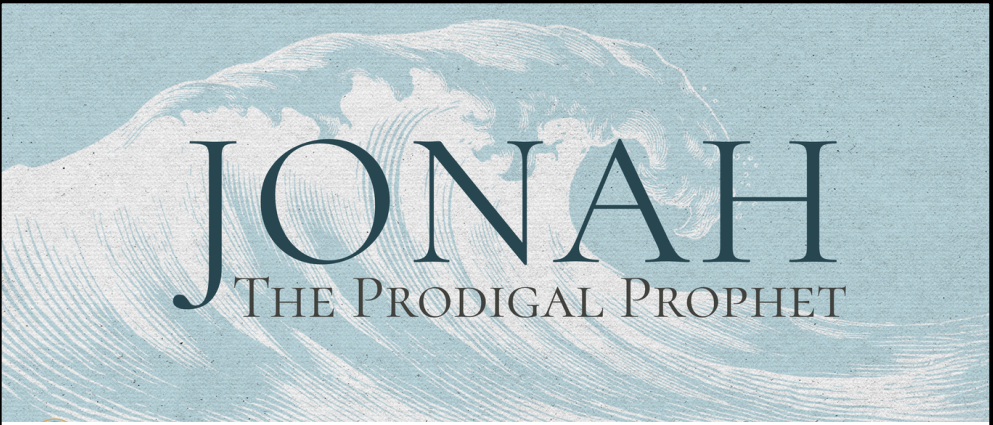




JONAH

THE PRODIGAL PROPHET

JONAH 3:1-4:3

QUESTION:

What does this story reveal to us about God and the way of life he calls us to?

KEY IDEAS:

- 1. The astonishing magnitude of God's mercy:** *God loves extending grace to those who repent—evil those who have lived lives devoted to evil.*
- 2. The surprising repentance of wicked people:** *The Ninevites offer an example of REPENTANCE we should imitate.*
- 3. The tragic absence of mercy in Jonah's heart:** *Jonah is furious that God offers grace to the people he hates.*

APPLICATION:

- 1. Spiritual X-Ray:** *Whose heart does your heart look like? God's compassionate, merciful heart? Nineveh's responsive, repentant heart? Jonah's self-centered, love-less heart?*
- 2. Mirroring God's Heart:** *Who are you prone to look at with contempt and condemnation? How is Jesus asking you to see, pray for, and engage with that person/people*

JONAH 3:1-4:3

¹Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: ²“Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

³Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it.

⁴Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” ⁵The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

⁶When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

“By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

¹⁰When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

¹But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the Lord, “Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”