

Repentance: The Fruit-Bearing Response of the Believer

Jonah 3:6-10

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Pastor Peter Chung

Jonah 3:5-10 [Legacy Standard Bible]

⁵And the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

⁶Then the word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, laid aside his mantle from him, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat on the ashes.

⁷And he cried out and said, "In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, animal, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat, and do not let them drink water.

Jonah 3:5-10 [Legacy Standard Bible]

⁸“But both man and animal must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God with their strength that each may turn from his evil way and from the violence which is in his hands.

⁹“Who knows, God may turn and relent and turn away from His burning anger so that we will not perish.”

¹⁰Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way, so God relented concerning the evil which He had spoken He would bring upon them. And He did not bring it upon them.

Metanoew (μετανοέω)

Meta (μετα) : "with", "amid," "after"

Noeo (νοέω) : "think," "perceive," "understand"

Metanoew (μετανοέω)

- Changed after being with
- Think differently after
- Change of direction
- Repentance

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Outline of Jonah 3:5-10

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|------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| I. | The Fruit of Repentance (3:5-8) | Outside |
| II. | The Faith Behind Repentance (3:4,8-9) | Inside |
| III. | The Favor from Repentance (3:10) | Upside |

I. The Fruit of Repentance

⁴Then Jonah began to go into the city, one day's walk; and he called out and said, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown."

⁵And the people of Nineveh **believed in God**; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

⁶Then the word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, laid aside his mantle from him, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat on the ashes.

I. The Fruit of Repentance (Jonah 3:5-8)

Jonah 3:8–10 (LSB)

⁸“But both man and animal must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God with their strength that each may **turn from his evil way** and from the violence which is in his hands.

⁹“Who knows, God may turn and relent and turn away from His burning anger so that we will not perish.”

¹⁰Then God saw their works, **that they turned from their evil way**, so God relented concerning the evil which He had spoken He would bring upon them. And He did not bring it upon them.

NOT Repentance

Dismay toward consequence: Cain

Genesis 4:13–14 (LSB)

¹³And Cain said to Yahweh, "My punishment is too great to bear!

¹⁴"Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Your face I will be hidden, and I will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and it will be that whoever finds me will kill me."

NOT Repentance

Tears of regret

Hebrews 12:16–17 (LSB)

¹⁶that also there be no sexually immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.

¹⁷For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

NOT Repentance

Acknowledgement of sin and remorse

Matthew 27:3–4 (LSB)

³Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

⁴saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself!"

Godly Sorrow vs. Worldly Sorrow

2 Corinthians 7:10 (LSB)

¹⁰For godly sorrow produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world brings about death.

I. The Fruit of Repentance (Jonah 3:5-8)

Hebrews 11:6 (LSB)

⁶And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who draws near to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

II. The Faith Behind Repentance (3:4-8,9)

Jonah 3:4–10 (LSB)

“Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” [Faith from hearing]

⁵And the people of Nineveh believed in God; [Hearing produced belief]

and they called a fast and put on sackcloth, [Belief proven in repentance]

⁹“Who knows, God may turn and relent and turn away from His burning anger so that we will not perish.” [Fearful trust in God’s loving-kindness]

¹⁰Then God saw their works... they turned from their evil way,

II. The Faith Behind Repentance (3:4-8,9)

Conversion / Change

- The change, whose source is God, always begins with a faith that is coupled with repentance.

Jonah 3:4–10 (LSB)

“Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” [Faith from hearing]

⁵And the people of Nineveh believed in God; [Hearing produced belief]
and they called a fast and put on sackcloth, [Belief proven in repentance]

⁹“Who knows, God may turn and relent and turn away from His burning anger so that we will not perish.” [Fearful trust in God’s lovingkindness]

¹⁰... they turned from their evil way,

II. The Faith Behind Repentance (3:4-8,9)

1 Samuel 16:7 (LSB)

⁷But Yahweh said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but Yahweh looks at the heart."

II. The Faith Behind Repentance (3:4-8,9)

Matthew 3:8–9 (LSB)

⁸“Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;

⁹and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.

II. The Faith Behind Repentance (3:4-8,9)

Acts 2:37–38 (LSB)

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men, brothers, what should we do?”

³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

II. The Faith Behind Repentance (3:4-8,9)

Acts 26:19–20 (LSB)

¹⁹“So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision,

²⁰but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, practicing deeds appropriate to repentance.

III. The Favor From Repentance (3:10)

Jonah 3:10 (LSB)

¹⁰Then **God saw** their works, that they turned from their evil way, so **God relented** concerning the evil which He had spoken He would bring upon them. And He did not bring it upon them.

III. The Favor From Repentance (3:10)

Colossians 1:12–14 (LSB)

¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

¹³Who rescued us from the authority of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son of His love,

¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

III. The Favor From Repentance (3:10)

Hebrews 1:2 (LSB)

²in these last days spoke to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds,

Romans 8:17 (LSB)

¹⁷and if children, also heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Ephesians 1:3 (LSB)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

III. The Favor From Repentance (3:10)

Revelation 5:9–10 (LSB)

⁹And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, because You were slain and purchased for God with Your blood people from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

¹⁰“And You made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the earth.”

(cf. Daniel 7:18; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 20:4-6)

III. The Favor From Repentance (3:10)

1 Corinthians 6:2–3 (LSB)

²Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not worthy to constitute the smallest law courts?

³Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?

III. The Favor From Repentance (3:10)

Matthew 12:41 (LSB)

⁴¹“The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

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III. The Favor From Repentance (3:10)

Ephesians 2:1–7 (LSB)

¹And you were dead in your transgressions and sins,
²in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience,
³among whom we all also formerly conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

III. The Favor From Repentance (3:10)

Ephesians 2:1–7 (LSB)

⁴But God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us,

⁵even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

⁶and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

⁷so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.