

Repentance, Faith, and the Growth of the Church | Jonah

Similarities to our situation today:

1. Jonah looked down on the people of Ninevah, and many American Christians look down on those who are outside the church.
2. Jonah struggled that God would extend the same forgiveness to the Assyrians, if they repented, that He gave to the Israelites. Many American Christians struggle in the same ways toward those who are presently pushing the immoral and evil agendas of the day.
3. Jonah refused God's call to take the message of repentance to Ninevah by going somewhere else, and many Americans refuse to take the message of repentance to our fellow citizens by simply doing something else.

In very simple and Biblical terms: Repentance is a change of mind and of behavior.

God doesn't tell us to simply point out that others have sinned. God sends us to tell sinners to repent.

Regret, embarrassment, and apologies are easy; but repentance is hard.

Repentance means you change your mind, and your behavior.

1. You change your mind about yourself.
2. You change your mind about sin.
3. You change your mind about God.

Repentance means you change your mind, and your behavior.

Jonah lamented the grace of God toward sinners, Jesus died on the cross as an act of grace toward sinners.

Jonah ran from God's call and was in the fish for three days because he tried to avoid preaching to Ninevah, Jesus followed the call and was in the grave for 3 days and was resurrected to save sinners.

Jonah sat on a mountain waiting for God to destroy Ninevah, Jesus sits on His throne in heaven after sending His followers out to share the gospel with the lost.

Christians, the church, are sent to the worst people we know so they can know the most loving person there is.

The people we share the gospel with become the people we worship with.

The same God who sent Jonah to the evil Assyrians is the God who sent Jesus to save you, me, and the ungodly people who live all around us.