

Relentless, Part 2

But They Don't Deserve It

Jonah, Chapter 3 ♦ October 7, 2018

We are dealing with a relentless God and a reluctant prophet.

1. God calls.
The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." Jonah 1:1-2 (NIV)
2. Jonah runs.
But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. Jonah 1:3 (NIV)
3. Sea rages.
The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?" Jonah 1:11 (NIV)
4. Fish gulps.
But the Lord provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights. Jonah 1:17 (NIV)
5. Jonah is released from time out.
- *And the Lord commanded the fish and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.* - Jonah 2:10 (NIV)

God gives Jonah a second chance.

Compare Jonah 1:1-3 and 3:1-3:

<i>Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it....</i>	
<i>but Jonah ran away...</i>	- Jonah 1:1-3 (NIV)
<i>Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to the message I give you...</i>	
<i>Jonah obeyed...</i>	- Jonah 3:1-3 (NIV)

But Jonah is still salty, because the Assyrians still disgust him.

Woe to the city of blood, full of lies...piles of dead, bodies without number, people stumbling over the corpses – all because of the wanton lust of a harlot, alluring, the mistress of sorceries, who enslaved nations by her prostitution and peoples by her witchcraft. I am against you, declares the Lord. Nahum 3:1-4 (NIV)

Jonah wants to decide who gets second chances.

Grace – unmerited favor; **Mercy** – divine favor, compassion, forgiveness

The Parable of The Unforgiving Servant: *The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a*

king who wished to settle accounts with his servants... 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'... Matthew 18:23-35 (ESV)

Jonah struggles with both obedience and spiritual pride.

He obeys, but does the bare minimum.

Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was very important city – a visit required three days. On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed:

"Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned." - Jonah 3:4(NIV)

God can use the bare minimum.

The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

When the news 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. Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh:

"By decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish." - Jonah 3:5-9

God loves to find lost things.

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

Jonah 3:10 (NIV)

1 Sheep, 1 Coin, 1 Son:

There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents. – Luke 15:10 (ESV)