

Jonah Part 4 HANDOUT

3.19.23

Jonah 3:1-2 Then 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.”

KEY: There are consequences for every decision you make - both good and bad. Jonah found himself in a place where he was dealing with the consequences - and they weren't pleasant.

Matthew 12:40: For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

KEY: If God is transforming our hearts to be like Christ, then we will have compassion for lost and broken people!

Jonah 3:3 Jonah 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.

KEY: When we have the right posture before God and the right disposition in our hearts, our obedience means we won't have to go through the belly of a great fish to realize how wrong we truly are.

Jonah 3:4-5 Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

KEY: You can grow up hearing sermons, you can learn all the Sunday school lessons, you can sing all the worship songs and you can still end up like Jonah - the wrong heart disposition. This is a dangerous place to be.

Deuteronomy 6:5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Psalm 51:12-13 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.

What does that look like in our churches today? Asking God to change our hearts! ***Not just our gatherings.***

Jonah 3:6 When 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.

KEY: The King is relinquishing his authority and power as a king - the very things that he feels he is entitled to. In these times - people would display on the outside what was happening in their soul - **it was a discomfort in their sin.**

Jonah 3:7 This 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.

- Fasting is about changing yourself to be in agreement with God's plan and to be prepared to carry out your role in His plan.

Jonah 3:8 But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.

KEY: It's possible to know the right things and still not have a heart of brokenness towards your sin.

Jonah 3:8-10 ...Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. 9 Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish." 10 When 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.

POINT: God is calling me to a deeper commitment to Him in every area of my life so I can live more like Christ.