
Who Knows?

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*What does God do with people who have failed Him?***God meets Jonah with mercy in his failure.**

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.” ³ Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Jonah 3:1-3a

- God’s mercy is greater than your failure.

God sends His word to Nineveh, the great pagan city.

...Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. ⁴ Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” Jonah 3:3b-4

- No one is beyond the reach of God’s mercy.

Nineveh believes God and turns toward Him without knowing whether He will relent.

The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. 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. 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. 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. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.” Jonah 3:5-9

- You don’t have to have all the answers to trust God’s mercy.

Turn toward mercy.

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.

Jonah 3:10

- Immediate
- Complete
- Active

Let’s Talk About It

The book of Jonah reveals some of the most raw, honest, and difficult things about us. But this book also highlights some of the best things about God. Jonah 3 reminds us just how big God’s mercy really is. After everything Jonah had done, God came to him again and gave him another chance. But God’s mercy extends beyond those who know Him. By sending Jonah to Nineveh, God shows us that no one is beyond the reach of His mercy. The people of Nineveh didn’t know how things would turn out, but they chose to believe God and turn toward Him anyway. Their story challenges us to do the same: when God calls us to repentance, we don’t need all the answers—we simply need to turn toward His mercy – immediately, completely and actively.

Jonah 3; Revelation 7:9

Discussion questions:

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read Jonah 3:1-10. God speaks to Jonah a second time and gives him another opportunity to obey. What does this show us about God’s response to us when we fail?
- The Ninevites responded to God’s warning with humility and repentance. What’s the difference between simply feeling sorry about something and genuinely repenting?
- Is there an area where you’ve been asking God for forgiveness but haven’t actually changed direction? What would it look like to respond to God immediately, completely, and actively?
- God saw Nineveh’s response and showed mercy. What does this chapter teach us about the heart of God toward people who are far from Him? Who in your life might you be tempted to assume would never respond to God? How could you take one step toward them this week?

Take a Step

Is there something God has already revealed to you that you keep telling Him you’ll deal with later? What would it look like to take one step toward Him this week?

Here’s My Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your mercy and for giving me another chance when I fall short. Help me respond to You with humility, trust, and obedience. Give me Your heart for people who are far from You, and the courage to go wherever You send me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.