



IT'S NOT TOO LATE.

Jonah 3:1-10

Jonah Goes to Nineveh

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." ³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. ⁴ Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

The People of Nineveh Repent

⁶ The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷ And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, ⁸ but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹ Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish." ¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Jonah's second chance...

- Jonah gets a **second** chance – 3:1 *Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,*
- God calls Jonah: Get up, go to a bad place, and preach what I tell you to preach to twisted people – 3:2 *"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you."*
- Jonah's **feet** move in God's direction but his **heart** is still far away – 3:3 *So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth.*
- Jonah's preaches a 5-word sermon of **judgment** – 3:4 *Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"*
 - Jonah knew for certain what the Ninevites could only hope was true: that God would grant mercy upon humility and repentance.

Jeremiah 18:7-8

If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, ⁸ and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it.

- An entire city turns to God – 3:5-9

1) Believed God – 3:5 *The people of Nineveh believed God.*

2) Humbled themselves before God and one another – 3:5-8a *They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. ⁶ The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷ And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, ⁸ but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth.*

3) Called out to God – 3:8b-9 *and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹ Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.”*

- They **repented** and God **relented** – 3:10 *When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.*
 - In Jonah we see the “wrong” people getting it right and the “right” people getting it wrong.
 - Even wicked cities with messy people matter to God. So they should matter to us.

Soul questions

- ▶ Who do you identify with in Jonah chapter 3?
- ▶ How do you respond to tough truths?
- ▶ What opportunities has God given you? What are you doing with them?