



**JONAH: GOD OF
2ND CHANCES**
“A Second Chance and
An Awakening”
Jonah 3 May 18, 2014

A Second Chance

1. God met Jonah
2. God _____ to Jonah
3. God _____ Jonah
4. God _____ Jonah

An Awakening

1. _____ Message to Nineveh
2. _____ Message to God
3. _____ Message to Nineveh

Our “2nd Chance”

- ✓ Have you given up? Do you think God can't use you? Be encouraged today, God is the God of 2nd chances?
Jump back in the fight today

- ✓ Are you and I willing to be obedient to God's call on our lives, to go where He tells us to go, and to do what He tells us to do? We must! **Let's go!!**
- ✓ **Let's pray** and get on our face before God for revival for ourselves and pray for an awakening for our community, our state, nation, and world.
- ✓ **Let's share** with those who need to know that God loves them and cares deeply about them today!! Let's be willing to share the Gospel this week with one person who you know He is calling you to share with in your life! (Being reminded of the reality and awfulness of hell – separation from God forever) Write their name down here Commit to pray for them, for an opportunity to share with them and for you to bold enough to share.
- ✓ Maybe today or this week or this month someone has been God's messenger to you and you need to respond to His loving Call in your life! **Let's respond to God's call to believe!** It's as simple as ABC! **Admit** you are a sinner, **Believe** that Jesus is God's Son, **Confess** Him as Savior and **Commit** your life to Him as Lord for the rest of your life!!
- ✓ **Let's be willing to be obedient** and Be willing to step over the line this morning in what He is calling you to do. Maybe it is join this church family and honor Him by not attending but joining His family and being a part of bringing the good news to our community and to the ends of the earth!
- ✓ Are there vows that you have made to the Lord that you have not yet fulfilled in your life? Write them down and make a plan to do those very things this month!
- ✓ For someone today, you have been running from God's clear call on your life to serve Him in full time Christian Service. Stop running and just surrender today.

JONAH: THE GOD OF 2ND CHANCES

“A Second Chance & An Awakening”

Jonah 3

May 18, 2014 AM Service

Brief Review [Micah 7:7-10](#)

A Second Chance

We are now talking about a different Jonah than chapter 1. No longer rebellious, no longer running from God and His plan for Jonah but now ready and poised to do what God was calling him to do.

Jonah was humbled, and he had been lovingly disciplined by God and Jonah was going to realize that God was not through with him yet.

Something some of you will need to hear this morning is that God is not through with you. You think you may have blown it, been disobedient, walked away, maybe run away from God, and now He wouldn't possibly have you back, God couldn't possibly use you again, but as we will see in the life of Jonah and looking at others in the Bible, God is never through with a person who is repentant and ready to walk with Him again.

1. God Met Jonah

Wherever Jonah landed from the fish, God was there. In fact, God had never left Jonah, only Jonah had moved. God was displeased with Jonah He had never deserted him! God had controlled the storm, sent the fish, and rescued him from the deep. God had kept His word with Jonah and He does to you and I. [Heb 13:5](#) “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

The Lord is waiting for some of us to return to Him, He is ready to meet with you, get you back on the path of obedience and walking with Him in joy, and fulfilling God's great and awesome plan for your life! God longs to meet with us, to share His heart and His love with us so that we can then allow His love to pour through us to a hurting world all around us.

2. God Communicated to Jonah

Remember before, God was not speaking to Jonah anymore, but instead God had to use the thunder, rain, wind, seas, and eventually a fish to get his attention. But notice, now that Jonah has confessed and

repented, God could now speak to Him through His word once again. A question to ask yourself, do you hear God's gentle voice today? Do you sense His presence as you read His Word and does He speak to your heart? When you come here to worship, does God speak to you? Some of us can't hear God because the noise of the world around us so loud that it simply is drowning out God's voice. Or, some of us have unconfessed sin like Jonah that keeps God from responding to us.

God wants to speak to us, and for us to hear Him. The question is, are you listening and are your ears unclogged from the stuff of the world or sin in your life that you can hear Him.

3. **God Commissioned Jonah** or really re-commissioned him

God was not through with Jonah yet. Some would say, well Jonah blew it and that's that. Some of you might think the same thing, well God couldn't possibly use me again, I have done this or that, I have not done something. Listen, God is after your heart and mine.

Nothing can disqualify us from the service of God, no one is beyond God's healing and restoration. It is a matter of confession and repentance on our part. Now there are certainly some consequences that might come along with our bad decisions and we have to walk through those and if severe enough may mean a change of how or where we serve, but the bottom God line, God does not wash His hands of us because we mess up no matter how big! God can still use us in His service, it's a matter of being repentant, returning to Him, allowing Him to restore us. NO excuse to sin though, that God will use me, I will go ahead and do what I want. Just ask old Jonah if he would do it over again. I think Jonah would have set a world record to Nineveh versus being disobedient and running from God.

God commissions Jonah to go and tell Nineveh His message of judgment and repentance.

4. **God Challenged Jonah**

God challenges Jonah to go somewhere and do something that was way beyond his abilities so that He would have to depend upon God to be able to accomplish it. He had to travel over 500 miles to get there but don't you think he made it in record time?

God gave Jonah a huge challenge in three ways.

First, his call was to his enemy, those whom he hated.

Second he was being sent to a huge city – an exceedingly great city with somewhere over 600,000 people possibly up to a million and only one man to share the message. He must have felt like old Gideon felt!

William Booth the founder of the Salvation Army said, “When I got the poor of London on my heart and a vision of what Christ could do, I decided He would have all of William Booth that there was.”

The circumference of the city and its suburbs were 60 miles. Just one wall of the city had a circumference of 8 miles and boasted 1500 towers. The phrase a 3 day’s journey either referred to how long it took to walk around the city or three days to make his way through the city, either way it was a huge city for its day.

Third, it was a wicked city, known for its violence showing no mercy to its enemies even for life in its own kingdom for they were known to follow a policy of killing babies and younger children so they wouldn’t have to take care of them! (Sound familiar?)

Jonah on his way over though had to be wondering, how can I do this? this is an impossible task, still probably didn’t love these people, yet he knew that he had to go.

“The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God can’t keep you and the power of God can’t use you.”

How true this is and how Jonah was going to find out.

An Awakening

Notice what is about to take place, an awakening, not revival. Jonah had experienced revival in his own heart, revival is for the church not for the lost person. You can’t revive something that isn’t there to start with, you can’t revive a dead man.

Jonah had experienced a revival of sorts, something we need to experience in our own lives.

What happens here is an awakening. A group of people on a large scale being awakened to the fact of their need for God in their lives and a deep sense of repentance over the condition of their lives and a willingness and desire to change. Watch how God uses Jonah and his willingness to bring God’s message and what the results will be.

1. Jonah's Message to Nineveh

It was brief, it was blunt and it was blessed.

You need to repent, God is going to overthrow your city in 40 days if you do not heed my message and turn from your wicked ways.

We only see 8 words recorded here, surely Jonah told them more about God and who He was and of His great love for them and His judgment and justice that would prevail if they did not listen and respond to his message. (Jonah could speak from experience!) There is no doubt that he bore some marks from his experience – many believe that the acid from the fish's stomach would have bleached skin. He bore the marks of the Lord's intervention – what marks do we have in our lives both good and bad that the Lord used in our lives to get our attention and to use us in a greater way for His glory?

But either way, Jonah clearly spoke the message that God had given him to share with Nineveh, nothing more nothing less.

Some would say, boy Jonah must have been one incredible communicator, he must have said it just the right way, demanding their attention, whatever.

Many times we don't think we can share, not trained, don't know enough, people won't listen, whatever, but God's call is clear, share clearly the message the best you know how and what God has done has in you and through you and leave the results up to him.

2. Nineveh's Message to God

The response is incredible! It was not because of Jonah that they responded, it was the power of God and I believe the power of a transformed life that stood before them. God was using a willing vessel to share the bad news so that they could know that there was good news. People need to know how bad the bad news is, before they can truly understand how good the good news is!

There was faith – they believed – there was fasting – even down to the animals – **ILLUS: Awakening in Wales – even to the miners** – the ponies no longer responded because they were only use to the cursing and abuse and these men had been changed and there was forgiveness They respond it seems almost immediately from the least to the greatest, with fasting and sackcloth and ashes, even to the animals.

Folks, the conviction of God fell upon this city and it was changed! They wanted to get right with God, and they put their trust in God alone! **Micah 4 walk with other gods, we will walk with God!** Why? Jonah, No way! The way it was delivered? No. It was because of the power of God and the people's response to their need for God in their lives. Oh that we would see that here in our own community and even before that in our own lives first! People need to see in me and you that we are changed, that we are different, that God has changed us and given us a deep love for them. Notice one other thing, the king was changed. Sometimes we think those who are in charge, leaders will not listen, but that is simply not true. Look at the influence the king had over his people as they followed his example.

3. God's Message to Nineveh

I hear you, and I will relent is really a better word. God responds to the people's cry of confession and repentance demonstrated by what they prayed and how they fasted and how it changed their life from the top of the city down to the bottom. I will not destroy your city. God doesn't repent in the way that you and I do or really changed His mind as we do. **"That God repents is part of God's nature as a loving, covenant-making God. It is a part of His freedom as one able to responded to the needs and the cries of his people rather than being a robot programmed always to respond the same way. God's repentance is however, always a reaction dictated by God's plans and God's decision and always beyond human control. It si a free action of God in relation to His people and His purposes. It is never an automatic responded brought about by some human reaction or response."** Holman Commentary **See Jeremiah 18:7-8** He says, You are forgiven. God responded to the changed hearts of the people of Nineveh. This entire city is changed. Imagine the difference throughout that city the next day and in the days to come. Aren't you grateful that the Lord has relented of punishing us because of our sins? He sends His only Son Jesus to brings us forgiveness, hope and a 2nd chance!

We Must remember first and foremost that we have been blessed to be a blessed to others – specifically those who have not heard!

We must Pray like never before “If God answered right now, in one fell swoop, every prayer that you prayed last week, would anybody new be in the Kingdom?” J.D. Greear

We Must Proclaim The Good News

Recent Lifeway Survey: 80% of Church Attenders believe it is their responsibility to share the Gospel but over 60% had not done so in the past 6 months.

We Must Invite Others to Come – We Must be Willing to Go and Tell NO matter what!

ILLUS: William Borden