

Jonah – The Mercy of God and the Actions of Man

Week 7 – The “Do Over” God

Jonah 3:1-4

God reinstates His people to obediently join His mission.

Action: We will obey God’s command to go with the Gospel and join His salvific work

Series Graphic (SLIDE 1)

Opening Idea

One Wrong Move and You’re Gone! This is a situation that shows no mercy or room to make a mistake. Imagine making a mistake and then you cannot be forgiven or restored. There are consequences to mistakes, but to be punished forever is harsh and crushing. We need correction, but we also need a “Do Over”. A “Do Over” is a chance to learn from mistakes and being included again in things that are good. Praise God that the Bible has examples of His mercy to deal with sin that destroys and give forgiveness that restores his people, making them able to be a part of His work. Being included in God’s work brings joy and honor.

Jonah has earned the opportunity to be crushed by God and suffer His wrath. But God does something wonderful. He corrects Jonah, reveals Jonah’s sin, saves Jonah from the depths of the ocean, and brings Jonah to a place where he can participate in God’s work and carry out God’s call and commission. Jonah is given a “Do Over”. Let’s continue our study of Jonah and see more of God’s mercy!

Merciful Reminder (SLIDE 2)

Do You Do Well to be Angry?

Read

Jonah 3:1-4 ESV (SLIDE 3)

1 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!”

Series Graphic (SLIDE 4)

Notes on Jonah 3:1-4

The Lord Speaks Again (v. 1-2)

Jonah writes the same words with which he started the book. Jonah makes it clear, again, that these are God’s words and they are given to Jonah, again! Jonah received these words before

but ran from God. God's plan is for His words to make the Ninevites believe. God is giving His word again and Jonah is receiving the word. Jonah is commanded to go to Ninevah and reveal its situation with God. They have sinned and God is revealing their sinfulness and their situation with God. Jonah is to arise and go reveal their sin and situation.

Jonah records that the word that came to Him was from the Lord. Remember, from week two, that this is God's word and it is given to Jonah. Two, this word from God is inspired by God to be used by God's people to teach, correct, rebuke, train in righteousness. Finally, God chose Jonah to receive this word, capture this word (write it down), and share this word. Jonah writes that this word was given specifically to him. Jonah specifies his identity, son of Amittai, so that there is no confusion or mistake. This is a sacred word given specifically to Jonah! We see that God is true to His word, and His plans will be accomplished. This is a great example of God keeping His promises.¹

God reveals His character and personhood in this moment. God is merciful in dealing with Jonah. God has brought Jonah out of the belly of the huge fish onto dry land. God has given Jonah His word again. God has commissioned Jonah again to give His word to the Ninevites. God has not forgotten about the Ninevites and did not allow Jonah to judge them and reject them from God's work to save them from His own wrath. God is effective in His mercy and in His salvific work.

Jonah Arises and...Goes to Ninevah (v. 3)

Jonah hears the word and the command from God, and he responds to God, again. Jonah goes... to Ninevah. Jonah is not so angry, hardened, calloused and asleep that he rejects God a second time to run from God's presence. Jonah goes where God sends him. Ninevah was a great city (well known, large, and prosperous) of the Assyrian empire, becoming the capital city of Assyria with grandeur and renown.² It is written that the city was large and would take a man multiple days to cross on foot. In chapter one, Jonah flees from God. Now, after suffering the storm, being tossed overboard, being trapped on the floor of the sea, being swallowed by a great fish, spending three days in the fish's belly, and being vomited onto the dry land, Jonah follows God's command and he goes to Ninevah.

5 Words/ 8 Words of Impending Wrath (v. 4)

We read that Jonah went into the city and began "calling out against the city". We finally read the message that Jonah received from God. The message is simple and compelling. In English, the message reads eight words, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!". It is a total of 8 words. In the original Hebrew, the message is only 5 words long. The message is brief, to the

¹ Notes from Week 2 "God Sends Salvation – A Sacred Word"

² <https://www.gotquestions.org/Nineveh-in-the-Bible.html>

point, and powerful. There is a clear outcome for the city and people in that they will be overthrown. There is a clear timeline of 40 days then the outcome is that the city will be overthrown. There is one city that it is directed towards and that is Ninevah. From a human perspective, there seems to be things missing from the message. The reason for the overthrow is missing. There is also a missing call to repent. It appears that the message is doomed to fail since there is no obvious reason or action step. There is more to this message than just the words. There must be something happening behind the scenes. This behind the scenes work and the delivery of a Godly message will be effective!

God Mercifully Gives His People Chances (SLIDE 5)

God's people stumble, but God continues working (SLIDE 6)

We sin, but God's plans do not change

Numbers 23:19 ESV

19 God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

God's plan includes His people, even when they reject God's call and command! (SLIDE 7)

His plans are in action, and He works to include us

2 Timothy 2:21 ESV

21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

Thank You God for Mercifully being a "Do Over" God (SLIDE 8)

We disqualify ourselves for good works

God mercifully cleanses us, equips us, and includes us in His glorious work

Read

Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV (SLIDE 9)

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Series Graphic (SLIDE 10)

Daily Readings

Week 7 – The “Do Over” God

Day 1

Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

You are not alone nor are you abandoned. God gives you fitting examples of His good work and people in scripture whom He used to accomplish His good work. So, take off and set aside any sin that would weigh you down and cause you to struggle to join God in His good work that brings Him joy and brings you honor. As God restores you, look to Jesus as the notable example of obedience and faithfulness. He is the perfect example we strive for. Don't let shame and guilt take you out but confess and receive forgiveness and get back to joining God in His work to make Himself known and grow His kingdom!

Day 2

Numbers 23:19 ESV

19 God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind.

God has called you and made you His child. He is equipping you and including you in His glorious salvific work. We struggle to be faithful and loyal. He does not. When we have done something to eliminate us from His work, God works to restore you and keep you in Christ and continue making you a part of His work. God hasn't changed His mind about you, nor will He. He is a “Do Over” God who restores you to join in His work!

Day 3

2 Timothy 2:21 ESV

21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

You belong to God and part of His household. He has created you to do honorable things that glorify Him and bring you honor. You will find your greatest joy in willingly participating in what God has created you for and called you to do. Sin disrupts your ability to do God's will willingly and joyfully. God is working to help you to be a "vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master..., ready for every good work." Praise God we are not put away, but as God's possession, He works to restore us and include us in His work. Give thanks to God that He is a "Do Over" God who works in you to include you in His good work!

Day 4

Psalm 33:10-11 ESV

10 The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples.

11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

God's plans and work are true and active for all generations. You may find that you ignored God's will and tried to do your own will, but God frustrated you and your plans. He didn't leave you in frustration but restored you to live according to His will and join in His works. Your heart and mind rejoice that His counsel is eternally right and that He desires to include past, present, and future generations in His work. You are part of that generational work. Praise God that He is a "Do Over" God who makes you part of His work!

Day 5

Isaiah 6:6-8 ESV

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. **7** And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." **8** And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

This is a powerful vision of revelation and response. God brought you into His presence and you realized your sin. You thought you were done for, but God worked to change your situation from doom to joy. You confessed your sin, and He forgave you and restored you. In making you right to be in His presence, you desire to join God in His work and become a person, ready to go, accomplishing His will and proclaiming His gospel! Praise God that He is a "Do Over" God!