

Jonah 2-3
“God’s Grace to the Most Undeserving”

~INTRO~

IF YOU’RE HERE VISITING...

- My name is Justan...
- One of the Assistant Pastors.

PASTOR JEFF & JODI ARE TAKING SOME TIME OFF...

- So please continue to pray for them to be refreshed!

~READ TEXT~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of [\(Jonah 2-3\) NKJV](#)

LET’S START OFF OUR TIME...

- By reading [\(Jonah 2:1-10\) NKJV](#)

~LET’S PRAY~

LAST WEEK...

- We introduced the book of Jonah and discussed...
- How it fits into the overall plan of God.

WE SAW HOW...

- Jesus validated who Jonah was...
- How he was swallowed by a big fish...
- And how God ultimately used him...
- To reach a people who were undeserving of His grace.

WE LOOKED AT CHAPTER ONE...

- Where Jonah testifies about running “[from the presence of God](#)” ...
- In the opposite direction to where God called him.
- And we related that to our lives...
- To how we sometimes run from what God has for us.

AND... WE UNDERSTAND...

- God allows storms into our lives...
- To correct our behavior...
- And get us back on-track to living a life by faith...

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- Because the storm is never intended to destroy!

~STUDY~

NOW... IT'S BEEN SAID BEFORE...

- That we can understand mercy & grace this way...
 - Mercy = not getting the punishment I deserve
 - Grace = getting something I don't deserve

THIS WEEK...

- We are looking at two chapters...
 - That emphasize God's mercy & grace...
 - In the lives of those who least deserve it!

SO NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message...
 - “*God’s Grace to The Most Undeserving*”

~IDEA # 1 – “Change of Heart” (2:1-10) ~

JONAH TAKES TIME...

- To describe what happens to him...
 - After he's thrown overboard.

#1 Jonah's Response (v. 1-2)

HE BEGINS TO CALL UPON THE LORD...

- In the belly of the fish.

THIS EVENT BROUGHT JONAH...

- To the end of himself...
 - And brought him to a “Change of heart”
 - Ultimately repenting before the Lord.

HERE WE SEE...

- God listened to Jonah's cry for help...
 - And provided a way for him to be saved.

#2 Jonah's Experience (v. 3-7)

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AS JONAH CRIES OUT TO THE LORD...

- His prayer contains portions and fragments...
 - From the book of Psalms.

- (vv. 2-6) Thanksgiving
- (vv. 7-8) Remorse
- (v. 9) Rededication

FOR US... WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO KNOW GOD’S WORD?

- When we’re in the “*belly of the fish*” ...
 - It keeps us in a place of sobriety & guidance.

#3 Thankfulness & Return (v. 8-10)

THROUGH ALL THIS...

- Jonah was delivered from his watery grave...
 - And safely brought to land.

SO FAR IN THESE TWO CHAPTERS...

- (7) miracles had already been performed by God...

Seven “C’s” of God’s miracles:

- 1) Caused a violent storm (1:4)
- 2) Caused the lot fell on Jonah as the reason (1:7)
- 3) Calmed the sea when Jonah fell overboard (1:15)
- 4) Commanded/prepared a great fist to swallow Jonah (1:17)
- 5) Coordinated the fish to transport Jonah safely (1:17)
- 6) Commanded the fish to spit Jonah on dry land (2:10)
- 7) Collapsed & melted Jonah’s disobedient heart (2:1)

THE TAKE-AWAY FOR US...

- Focuses on God’s compassion...
 - To *the most undeserving* prophet...
 - In all of history.
- Jesus gave us a parable...
 - To show us what the Kingdom of God is like...
 - (Luke 15:7, 11-24) NLT

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GOD’S COMPASSION IN THE STORM...

- Brought repentance in Jonah’s heart...
- So he praised God in preparation of obedience.

GOD USED THE FISH...

- To save Jonah from the sea...
- And bring him back to another opportunity to obey.

DID JONAH DESERVE...

- Another opportunity to be used?
- That’s the point of God’s mercy...
- No one deserves it!

~ IDEA #2 – “Round Two” (3:1-4) ~

#1 Jonah Recommissioned (v. 1-2)

CAN YOU IMAGINE...

- How Jonah must have felt?

THERE ARE STORIES IN RECENT HISTORY (1900’S)...

- Of men who have been swallowed by whales...
- And lived to tell the story.
 - One who spent 36 hours inside...
 - And came out completely bleached white...
 - Lost all his hair.

IMAGINE THE PICTURE...

- A huge fish coming on shore...
- Spitting this guy out...
 - Who now looks like an alien!
 - **Suddenly... God begins to speak to him again!**

HE DOESN’T REPRIMAND JONAH...

- Or kick him while he’s down...
- Rather... He goes back to where he started...
 - As if nothing ever happened!

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AND I WANT TO LET YOU KNOW...

- That’s how it is in our relationship with the Lord.
 - Remember what happened to Peter...
 - After he denied the Lord (3x)?
 - [\(John 21:15-18\) NLT](#)

#2 The Great City (v. 2-3)

THIS TIME... JONAH OBEYS THE WORD OF THE LORD...

- But we should understand the size of the task...
 - God has given him.

WE ALSO GET A GLIMPS AT THE MONUMENTAL...

- Task that was given to Jonah.

THE VERSE TELLS US...

- Nineveh was a “*Great City... three day's journey*”...
 - To see the whole thing.

THE CITY HAD TWO WALLS SURROUNDING IT...

- The inner wall was 50' thick & 100' tall & 8 miles in circumference.
- The outer wall surrounded the whole metropolitan area...
 - Including fields and smaller administrative towns.
 - With a total of 1500 watch towers for protection.

THE SIZE OF THE CITY...

- Was known to be roughly 211 square miles...
 - With approximately 600,000 -1,000,000 residents.

TO GIVE YOU SOME PERSPECTIVE...

- Denver is 2/3 the size of Nineveh...
 - With roughly the same population (680,000).
- New York City is 304 square miles...
 - With 8.5 million people.

HIS MISSION...

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- Was no small feat!
 - So he immediately jumped in and got to work.

#3 Jonah’s Message (v. 4)

THIS MESSAGE...

- Was just (4) words in the Hebrew language...
 - And (8) words in the English language.
 - Short & sweet
 - But effective!

THE PEOPLE OF ASSYRIA...

- Were known to worship and idol called Dagon...
 - Half fish / half man
 - [\(1 Samuel 5:2\)](#)

JONAH COMES FROM JOPPA (From Israel & so from the God of Israel)...

- Who just came from being swallowed by a fish...
 - Preaching a fierce message of repentance.
 - Needless to say – **It captured their attention!**

JONAH PREACHED A DIRECT MESSAGE...

- But it also contained the mercy of God...
 - [“40 days...”](#)

WHAT’S YOUR MESSAGE OR MINISTRY?

- Maybe you don’t know but you’re willing?
 - John Weasley once wrote this...

“Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls you can, in every place you can, at all the times you can, with all the zeal you can, as long as you ever can!”

~IDEA #3 – “A Great Revival” (3:5-10) ~

AFTER JONAH PREACHES THIS MESSAGE...

- We see how the people respond...
 - It’s a response in faith!

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#1 The People’s Response (v. 5)

THERE WAS AN INTERNAL RESPONSE...

- Because they believed God...
 - His message was true.

Hebrews 11:6 says...

“... It is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him.”

THERE BEGAN TO BE...

- A change of direction...
 - They proclaimed a fast
 - Which represents **prayer**...
 - They put on SACKCLOTH...
 - This was an outward demonstration of their **sorrow**.

#2 The King’s Response (vv. 6-7)

THE FIRST THING IT MENTIONS HERE...

- Is the king *“Arising from his throne”*...
 - This represents humility...
 - He surrendered his position & authority.

THE NEXT THING IT MENTIONS...

- Is the king *“... Laying aside his royal garments”*
 - He rejected the earthly comforts and pleasures...
 - And traded them for something that was uncomfortable.

LASTLY...

- We see the king *“... Sat in ashes”*
 - This was a common practice of mourning for the dead...
 - He surrendered his life to the all-powerful God of the universe.

THIS IS A GREAT ILLUSTRATION...

- Of what Paul talks about...

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➤ In (*Eph. 4:21-24*) *NLT*

THEN THE KING BEGINS TO AFFECT THE LIVES OF OTHERS...

- Because he sends out this decree to all the Assyrians.

HE DECLARED...

- That neither man nor beast could “*taste anything*”
 - Nothing was more important than repenting...
 - Not even eating or drinking...
 - Not even tending to their animals!

I LOVE HOW PASSIONATE...

- They are in turning to the Lord!

CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW DIFFERENT OUR LIVES WOULD BE...

- If Christians were this passionate in seeking the Lord!
 - In America
 - In Colorado
 - In Westminster
 - In our Church
 - In our Homes

THE KING ALSO WRITES...

- That the people must “*Cry mightily to God*”
 - This speaks of coming to God...
 - With passion & seriousness.

THEY HAD CHANGED THEIR MIND...

- Had repented of their sin...
 - And changed their actions before God...
 - In hopes they would receive mercy.

#3 Trusting God’s Mercy (v.8-9)

I LOVE THEIR FAITH HERE...

- They turned from their wicked ways...
 - And put their trust in the mercy of God.

BUT ONE THING I ASKED MYSELF WAS...

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- What was this inclination based on?
 - Based upon the fact of God’s mercy...
 - To send them a prophet in the first place.
 - [\(Hosea 6:6\)](#) says...

“For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.”

- [\(Matthew 9:13\)](#) Jesus quotes and says...

“But go and learn what this means “I desire mercy and not sacrifice” for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance”

(v. 10)

WE SEE THAT GOD RELENTS...

- From the impending destruction that he has declared.

THIS SHOULD BE NOTED...

- That we know God does not change...

THIS IS MERELY A HUMAN TERM...

- That describes the actions of God.

AS WE CLOSE...

- Let us recognize the great power and mercy of God...
 - The whole city of Nineveh repents and god has mercy upon them.
 - This is a greater miracle than any of the other...
 - Physical miracles in this book!

GOD CAN SAVE A WHOLE CITY...

- With hundreds of thousands of people...
 - With one message from a dude that looks like...
 - A bleached monk!

DO YOU BELIEVE...

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- That God’s abundant mercy & grace...
 - Can reach the *most undeserving* around you?
 - Is there anything too hard for God?
 - (Jer. 32:27) NLT
 - ""*I am the LORD, the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me?*"

FINALLY...

THIS IS A PICTURE...

- Of “Old-Covenant” relationship...
 - Not valid for how we relate to God.

FOR THE BELIEVER...

- This is what sanctification looks like...
 - It’s constant & ongoing...
 - Confession = agree with God (I’m wrong)
 - Repentance = turn away from that behavior
 - Forgiveness = restores the relationship
- These things happen regularly...
 - But it never changes our standing in Christ...
 - **Justified!**

~IN CLOSING (WORSHIP TEAM)~

TODAY IS AN OPPORTUNITY...

- For each us to respond to the undeserved grace of God in our lives...
 - If you’re here today...
 - And God has spoken to you tonight...
 - Raise your hand so I can pray with you.