

Jonah: The Reluctant Prophet - 13

Introduction: We come now to Jonah chapter 3. This chapter covers Jonah's preaching to the Ninevites and their repentance. We also see at the end of this chapter, the Lord's assessment of what took place with the Assyrians.

Notes:

As a local church:

- (1) We are to walk in obedience to the Lord and
- (2) We are to deliver God's message to all people of the world.

The Bible tell us in Luke 11:30 that Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites.

The Lord Jesus Christ stated, "***For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.***"

Our Outline for Chapter 3:

III. Jonah's Preaching: God's Proclamation - Chapter 3

A. Jonah's Obedience v1-4

1. The Repetition of the Command. v1,2
2. The Obedience to the Command. v3,4

B. The People's Repentance v5-9

1. The summary of the situation. v5
2. The seriousness of the situation. v6-8
3. The statement of the situation. v9

C. God's Grace and Mercy v10

1. God saw their works. v10
2. God dealt with them in mercy. v10

III. Jonah's Preaching: God's Proclamation - Chapter 3

A. Jonah's _____ v1-4

In **verses 1-4** we see yet again the calling of God upon Jonah's life. He is called to go again to the city of Nineveh. This scene if you were to compare the two, from **chapter 1** to **chapter 3** in these first couple of verses is almost identical.

The difference between the first chapter and the third chapter is seen in **Jonah's careful obedience to the instructions** given to him in chapter 3 versus **the rebellion** seen in chapter 1.

In **chapter 1**, we have the perfect illustration of a **disobedient Christian**. In chapter 3, we have the perfect illustration of an **obedient Christian**.

But in both **chapter 1 and chapter 3**, we see the **steadfastness and immutability** of the Lord our God. We see the **graciousness and methods of the Lord** in dealing with the individual Christian and also the people of the World.

His message is the message He determined the city of Nineveh needed.

We see the message of the Gospel that we are commissioned with is the same today as it was when the apostles preached it in the book of Acts. There is no new plan or no new way.

It is the Gospel that works in the lives and hearts of men through the wonderful working of His Spirit.

In **I Corinthians 1:21** the Word of God states, *"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, **it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.**"*

The preaching of the Word of God brings it listeners to a place of decision. What will they do with the message of God? How will they respond?

I want you to notice in **verses 1 and 2** in your notes that we have:

1. The _____ of the Command. **v1,2**

Oftentimes, we find in our Bible reading a repetition of certain truth. These are truths that God wanted to communicate to you and I and emphasize. When we discover what God has repeated over and over again, we ought to pay close attention.

The Bible say, “*And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah **the second time**, saying,*”

In this, we are reminded of that blessed truth which we discovered in Jonah chapter 1 concerning God speaking to us through His Word. Here we see the Lord speaking to Jonah a **second time**.

Matthew Henry in speaking of these introductory verses here in chapter said this, “See here the nature of repentance; it is the change of our mind and way, **and a return to our work and duty.**” Matthew Henry and Thomas Scott, Matthew Henry’s Concise Commentary (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, 1997), **Jon 3:1**.

I would like for us to understand secondly, that Jonah **needed the second call of God**. We can assuredly say that it was needed, for God gave it to Him.

The lesson is that we must be directed by the Lord in our service to the Lord. The Lord through the prophet Jeremiah spoke concerning this when he stated, “*I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.*” (**Jeremiah 23:21**)

There are many things that **we are called to already by God’s Word**, that are steadfast and that we can confidently stand upon. There is no presumption in witnessing to folks and telling them about Jesus. Why? Because we have already be called upon to do this in the Scriptures.

There is no presumption in studying the Word of God or in prayer. These are thoroughly commended in the Scriptures. I do not have to guess whether or not the Lord wants me to be a part of a local New Testament church. This is clearly given in the Scriptures.

“There is a vital principle here that applies to us all and it is this: **the revealed will of God for our lives is not negotiable—everything the Lord asks of us requires a thoroughly faithful response.** There is *one* standard of personal holiness to which we are all called and it is summed up in the injunction: ‘Be holy, because I am holy’”

(**1 Peter 1:16**) Gordon J. Keddie, Preacher on the Run: The Meaning of Jonah, Welwyn Commentary Series (Darlington, England: Evangelical Press, 1986), 79.

- (1) God's calling will come through His Holy Word.
- (2) God's calling will come through the preaching of His Word.
- (3) God's calling will come through the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian.

2. The _____ to the _____. v3,4

Notice what the Bible says, "*So Jonah arose, **and went unto Nineveh**, according to the word of the LORD.*"

Before when we look back at **chapter 1** we find these words, "***But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD...***"

You and I as God's people have been freed to walk rightly before the Lord. We are free to yield ourselves to God in faithful service to Him. We see here right at the beginning that Jonah arose and went.

Not only did Jonah go, but more importantly we find the next words in **verse 4**, "*according to the word of the LORD...*"

We might say, "Well I am serving the Lord. I do this or that..." The question that tries our obedience **is not are we doing...** but are we obeying according to the Word of the Lord?

Many will say, "I will serve God in this way." But the question arises **are we obedient according to the Word of the LORD?**

The reminds us of the Lord's instruction concerning this when He states in 15th chapter of John, "*If ye love me, **keep my commandments.***" What exactly is the Lord asking us to do in the 15th chapter of John? What does He mean by the phrase, "keep my commandments"?

In **I John 5:3** we find it put this way, "***For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.***"

Are we to come to understand that the Lord expects our obedience to Him and according to His Word? The answer is of course, Yes. The Lord does expect our careful obedience to His commands. We find in this small portion the change in Jonah's life, where he is carefully obeying the Word of the Lord.