

Review

- God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and call out against it because of their evil (1:1)
- Jonah refused and fled instead to Tarshish away from God's presence (1:3)
- God pursued Jonah by sending a great wind upon the sea (1:4a)
- Jonah was hurled into the sea (1:15)
- God rescued Jonah by a great fish that swallowed him (1:17a)
- God spoke to the fish and it vomited Jonah on dry land (2:10)
- God told Jonah to go to Nineveh *again* and call out against it God's message (3:2)

No. 5 – God commissions Jonah...again

3:1-10

God gives His servant *another* opportunity to accept His commission...and the Ninevites an opportunity to repent

- Chapter 1 – God in His mercy pursues
- Chapter 2 – God in His mercy delivers
- Chapter 3 – God in His mercy gives second chances

What happens after Jonah is vomited on dry land by the fish?

God gives Jonah a second chance (3:1-4)

- God's word comes to Jonah, again... (vv. 1-2) word
- Notice the similarity between 3:1-2 and 1:1-2
- Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city... great
- ...call out against it the message that I tell you... word

Why doesn't God let up on Jonah? On Nineveh?

Jonah's response... (vv. 3-4)

- Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to God's word **word**

Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city... **great**

...(lit. Hebrew) a great city *to God*

...three days' journey in breadth

- Jonah began to go into the city and called out

"Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

...eight words (English), five words (Hebrew)

...*overthrow*, or *changed*, or both...

God gives the Ninevites a second chance (3:5-10)

The Ninevites' response... (vv. 5-9)

- the people of Nineveh *believed God*

What caused the Ninevites to respond the way they did?

...they called for a fast and put on sackcloth

...from the greatest, to the least of them

- the king of Nineveh heard the word **word**

Who is the king of Nineveh?

...he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes

...he issued a proclamation

"Let neither man nor beast...not feed or drink water (fast)...but be covered with sackcloth..."

"Let them call out mightily to God..."

"Let everyone turn from his evil way and from violence..."

"Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish"

What do we see with the Ninevites?

- **They were attentive to the word of God**
- **They took God's word seriously**
- **They responded to it immediately, as best they could**
- **They pleaded with God, but didn't presume upon His mercy**

God's response to the Ninevites... (v. 10)

- God saw what they did, how they turned from the evil way...

- God relented of the disaster the he had said he would do to them...

What should we make of God relenting?

- **He is *not* contingent on anyone or anything**
- **He is only and always *bound* to Himself** (e.g. rules, provisions)
- **His relationship to *change* is in reference to particular contexts**
- **His relationship to *change* is expressed in ways that relate to our limited (finite) understanding**

Example: 1 Samuel 15:10-35

"I (God) regret that I have made Saul king..." (v. 11)

"(God) will not lie or have regret, for he is not a man, that he should have regret." (v. 29)

"And the LORD regretted that he had made Saul king..." (v. 35)

What do we learn about God's mercy in second chances?

- **He gives second chances to *both* prophet and pagans**
- **His second chances are opportunities to do as He requires**
- **His second chances are completely undeserved**
- **He gives second chances out of His desire for repentance**

Example: Ezekiel 18:23, 32 (cf. 33:11; Jeremiah 18:7-10)

"Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? ...For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."