

062324

“Into Nineveh”

Jonah 3:1-10

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Background

As we follow Jonah into enemy territory this week, the focus shifts from Jonah to the Ninevites. How do the people of this city respond to Jonah's message from God? What can we learn from their dramatic transformation? And what does God's response tell us about the reach of His grace? Join us as we explore these questions this Sunday for Part 3 of our series, "Jonah: Under the Surface"!

Sermon Text: *Jonah 3:1-10 (NASB)*

1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, 2 “Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you.”

3 So Jonah got up and went to Nineveh according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk. 4 Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, “Forty more days, and Nineveh will be overthrown.”

5 Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. 6 When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, removed his robe from himself, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat on the dust. 7 And he issued a proclamation, and it said, “In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: No person, animal, herd, or flock is to taste anything. They are not to eat, or drink water. 8 “But every person and animal must be covered with sackcloth; and people are to call on God vehemently, and they are to turn, each one from his evil way, and from the violence which is in their hands. 9 “Who knows, God may turn and relent, and turn from His burning anger so that we will not perish.”

10 When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their evil way, then God relented of the disaster which He had declared He would bring on them. So He did not do it.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?
- c. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?

2. Sunday questions

- a. Hae-Rin began with this quote: “It is easy to hate enemies.” Most of the time we don’t say we even have enemies. But, we do have those people who bother us, who annoy us, who we struggle to get along with. Where would you say you struggle with hate for enemies? Can you confess that to the Lord and ask for His help to love them?
- b. Jonah is a story of “unexpected reversals.” Where in your life has God brought about an unexpected reversal?
- c. We are the people of God today. And, yet, those of us who claim to know God may be the most reluctant to hear him and obey Him. Do you feel like you have ever settled for “the comfort of routine religion” at some point in your life? Explain.
- d. We are called to “humble obedience.” What would that look like in your life?
- e. Make your prayer this week a simple one: Lord Jesus, strengthen me to obey this week. Amen.