

## INTRODUCTION

Last week we saw how Jonah in the midst of his distress cried out to the LORD and was saved from death. This week we witness Jonah's renewed obedience and far from running from the LORD he is now running for the LORD after experiencing both His sovereign grace and mercy. Jonah experiences first hand that the LORD is the God of second chances.

### 1. Jonah's obedience v.1-4

Some of us may expect God to point the finger (Alan Sugar stylee!) straight at Jonah and say 'Your fired' and then use some other prophet like Amos but He doesn't. God extends grace and mercy to Jonah by reinstating him back to the privileged position of a Prophet.

- a) Compare the similarities and differences between chap 1:1-2 and chap 3:1-3
- b) What seems to have happened in Jonah's heart between chapter 1 and chapter 3 and why do you think that is?
- c) How do you feel when, like Jonah you are given another chance by the Lord? (give examples of when the Lord has given you another chance)
- d) God has a heart for cities, that is for the people living in cities, do you? If so how is that evident?

### 2. Ninevah's response (v.5-9)

Up until now the book of Jonah has been full of miracles and surprises and yet here in v.5-9 seems to be the biggest of all...

- a) What do you think is the biggest surprise in these verses and why?
- b) In verses 5-8 we see two things that must be central to the life of a Christian, what are they?
- c) Did you respond like the people of Ninevah when you heard the gospel for the first time?
- d) What is the difference between 'Godly sorrow' and 'worldly sorrow'? **READ 2 COR 7:9-10**
- e) Give examples of how your life is marked by true repentance? (repentance is to turn away from evil towards God)

### 3. The magnificent mercy of God (v.10)

After reading v.4 and then v.10 we might find ourselves asking the question does God change His mind? Because there was no mention of the possibility to repent in God's judgement.

- a) What does God do in v.10 and why?
- b) Did God change his mind?
- c) When you sin do you run away from God or run towards Him? Why?
- d) Do you struggle to believe that God will be merciful to you when you have sinned? Why/why not?

## CONCLUSION

As Christians we should be excited and encouraged by Jonah 3 because we see the emphasis on God as the author of salvation. The Lord will extend grace and mercy to all who repent and believe. We need to continually thank God that He is gracious and merciful to sinners and never stop running to Him realising our desperate need for Him.

## PRAYER

Thank the Lord for His grace and mercy to us in Jesus.  
That we will be obedient to speak His word to others.  
Daily practice true repentance (turning away from our sin towards the Lord)  
Ask the Lord to help us to extend grace and mercy to others.