

Jonah: Do the Right Thing

May 30, 2021

March Quarter

Lesson 13

OPENING QUESTION(S)

What causes people to make sudden true, lasting repentance?

JONAH 3:1-4 (NLT)

- 1 Then the LORD spoke to Jonah a second time:
- 2 “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you.”
- 3 This time Jonah obeyed the LORD’s command and went to Nineveh, a city so large that it took three days to see it all.
- 4 On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: “Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!”

JONAH 3:5-7 (NLT)

- 5 The people of Nineveh believed God's message, and from the greatest to the least, they declared a fast and put on burlap to show their sorrow.
- 6 When the king of Nineveh heard what Jonah was saying, he stepped down from his throne and took off his royal robes. He dressed himself in burlap and sat on a heap of ashes.
- 7 Then the king and his nobles sent this decree throughout the city: "No one, not even the animals from your herds and flocks, may eat or drink anything at all."

JONAH 3:8-10 (NLT)

- 8 People and animals alike must wear garments of mourning, and everyone must pray earnestly to God. They must turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence.
- 9 Who can tell? Perhaps even yet God will change his mind and hold back his fierce anger from destroying us.”
- 10 When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. The Ninevites were cruel and very wicked people. What did they do to deserve God's mercy and kindness? What can we do to earn His mercy and kindness?
- 2. What does it mean that a perfect God "changed His mind" and "repented of the evil"?

APPLICATION FOR ACTIVATION

- Jonah described God as being merciful, compassionate, and patient with the faults of others. Christians are supposed to be physical expressions of our spiritual God to a physical world.
- This week, look for people to whom you can demonstrate mercy, compassion, and patience.