

The Reluctant Preacher

Learning From Jonah's Mistakes

The Word Came To Jonah

□ **Jonah 1:1-2** " *Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."*"

□ **And He Came To Us**

■ **John 1:14** " *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."*

■ **Hebrews 1:1-2** " *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;"*

He Tried To Flee His Responsibility

□ **Jonah 1:2-3** "“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.” But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.”

□ No one escapes the Word of the Lord

■ **Hebrews 12:25** "See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven,"

Jonah Given Time To Repent

- *Jonah 1:17-2:1,9 "Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the fish's belly."*
- *After some thinking and praying... 2:9 "But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord."*
- **God gives time for repentance**
 - *Revelation 2:21 "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent."*

The Repentance of Jonah

□ *Jonah 3:1-4 " Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent. And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!""*

□ Do we need a reminder to repent?

■ *Acts 9:4-5 "Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."*

The Repentance of Ninevah

- *Jonah 3:5,9-10 "So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. ...Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish? Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it."*
- **The Word is God's Power to save**
 - *Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."*

The Anger of Jonah

- *Jonah 4:1-2 " But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. So he prayed to the Lord, and said, "Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm."*
- **Do we feel anger at those who do wrong?**
 - *Luke 9:54-56 "And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village."*

The Mercy of the Lord

- *Jonah 4:9-11 "Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!" But the Lord said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?"*
- **The Lord wants no one to perish**
 - *2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*