

After being held in the belly of the fish for three days, the Lord commanded the fish to vomit Jonah out onto dry land. He then gave Jonah another opportunity to take His message to the people of Nineveh, in order to show His lovingkindness to a people who were not in the chosen race of God.

Jonah 3:1-10

The God of Second Chances

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

In God's grace He is slow to anger. His lovingkindness is wildly patient and often times it's revealed to us in His willingness to give us a second chance. And, sometimes, His second chances become third, fourth, and fifth chances due to our inability to learn His good lessons. Sadly, it's in these second chances that we are grateful, but often reluctant when they are offered to others, especially when it's to those we feel are "undeserving".

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW often do you need second opportunities in your personal effort to do the right thing?

CAN you recall a time when you were given a second chance to make a wrong right and it went radically better?

HOW inclined are you to give second chances to others in your life?

WHY are we sometimes hesitant to give second chances to our spouse, children, friends, etc. even after we've received so many ourselves?

Jonah 3:1-10

The God of Second Chances

Read Jonah 3:1-10

OBSERVATION

What message does God give Jonah for the second time (vs. 2)?

How does Jonah respond to God's directive this time (vs. 3)?

What do you observe about Jonah's message in vs. 4 and the peoples' response in vs. 5?

In vs. 6-9, what do you observe about how the king specifically responds to Jonah's message?

How does God respond in the final verse of this passage?

INTERPRETATION

How does God's message to Jonah differ this time from the first time He sent him in 1:2?

Why does Jonah respond differently this time God gives him direction?

Does Jonah's message seem to be lacking anything in vs. 4? Consider Romans 10:14-15 for perspective.

How does the simplicity of the peoples' response in Nineveh reflect that of Abraham in Genesis 15:6 *and* that of us today in John 1:12?

Why do you think God gives the people of Nineveh a time constraint (vs. 4)? How does He do something similar to us in Hebrews 9:27?

Does the king's response demonstrate a contrite or compliant heart? How do you know? Consider Matthew 7:15-20 and 12:41 for insight.

Contrast Jonah's response to that of those in Nineveh. How do the Ninevites demonstrate repentance better than Jonah?

What does God's willingness to give Jonah a second chance *and* His desire to grant forgiveness to those in Nineveh reveal about His character?

APPLICATION

How has God put you in difficult places and/or used particular people in your life, in order to bring about repentance in you and others?