



Do Over! (Jonah 3:1-10)

Second Chance for Jonah

“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!**””

Jonah 3:1-4 NKJV

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.””* Jonah 3:1-2 NKJV

☑ First Chance

- ☑ “**Arise, go to Nineveh**, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.” Jonah 1:2 NKJV
- ☑ **Second Chance for Jonah**
 - ☑ [Now] Arise, go to Nineveh
 - ☑ [Then] Arise, go to Nineveh
 - ☑ [Now] ...that great city
 - ☑ [Then] ...that great city
 - ☑ [Now] ...preach to it the message that I tell you
 - ☑ [Then] ...cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.
- ☑ **What has changed?**
 - ☑ **The last verse of Chapter 1**
 - ☑ “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.***” Jonah 1:17 NKJV
 - ☑ **The last verse of Chapter 2**
 - ☑ “So the Lord spoke to the fish, and it **vomited Jonah onto dry land.**” Jonah 2:10 NKJV
- ☑ **After a pity party and a bunch complaining, Jonah seemed to get it...**

- ☑ “But **I will** sacrifice to You With the voice of **thanksgiving; I will** pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.””Jonah 2:9 NKJV
- ☑ See [Gastric Prayers](#) as Jonah processes his “woe-is-me-I-feel-sorry-for-myself” prayer.
- ☑ He at least gets to the the point where he says “I will!”
- ☑ And as we will learn, he has not completely surrendered.
- ☑ Let’s face it, God needed to swallow him with a giant fish and vomit him out at his assignment and his prayer in between is mostly a pity party.
- ☑ But at least he concludes:
 - ☑ I will sacrifice my own will...
 - ☑ *“Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”* Luke 22:42 NKJV
 - ☑ I will thank God for what I don’t want...
 - ☑ *“Therefore **let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Obey those who***

*rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as **those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.***” Hebrews 13:13-17 NKJV

☑ I'll do what I'm told to do even though I don't want to...

☑ *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”* Romans 12:1 NKJV

☑ Then and Now

☑ [Then] ...cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.

☑ [Now] ...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.**”* Jonah 3:3 NKJV

☑ Then...

☑ *“But **Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord...**”* Jonah 1:3 NKJV

☑ Jonah went in the opposite direction to flee from God's assignment!

☑ Now

- ☑️ Jonah does what the Lord assigned him to do!
- ☑️ He headed to Nineveh, a massive city that would take **three entire days** to walk through from end to end!
- ☑️ In addition to the *prophetic reason, maybe the extent of the city (and the sheer mass of corruption and sin) is the practical reason Jonah was in the belly of the fish for why **three days and three nights**.
- ☑️ **“For as Jonah was **three days and three nights** in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be **three days and three nights** in the heart of the earth.”*
Matthew 12:40 NKJV
- ☑️ *“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!”**”* Jonah 3:4 NKJV
- ☑️ **Here is the word to preach Jonah...**
- ☑️ Jonah enters this massive city and on the first day he delivers the message that God intended him to preach before he had the whole fleeing-ship-storm-sea-fish incident: *“cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.”*
- ☑️ *You got forty days to get your act together or the whole thing is going to burn to the ground!*

☑ And instantly....

Second Chance for Nineveh

“So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. **And he caused it to be proclaimed and published** throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, **and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. 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.”

Jonah 3:5-10 NKJV

Jonah 3:5-10

☑ *“So **the people of Nineveh believed God,** proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.”*

Jonah 3:5 NKJV

- Second Chance for Nineveh**
 - Instant repentance: it makes no human sense...
- The People of Nineveh believed God!**
 - This is a city of utter debauchery, evil ways and violence, and yet in one moment...after one message...*“Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”* And the people believe!
 - Repent...
 - The Salvation message is NOT complicated, but it cannot be understood by the human intellect, absent God’s supernatural intervention: *“For **the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**”*
I Corinthians 1:18 NKJV
- This very thing in action in your own story...
 - While sinners!**
 - “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**”
Romans 5:8 NKJV
 - Preaching with persuasive words of human wisdom will never yield authentic repentance!**
 - “And I, brethren, when I came to you, **did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom** declaring to

you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except **Jesus Christ and Him crucified**. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And **my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom**, but in **demonstration of the Spirit and of power**, that **your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.**" I Corinthians 2:1-5 NKJV

- ☑ One message: It will makes no sense to those who are perishing... Christ crucified!
- ☑ One way to bring that message: the demonstration of the Spirit and of power!
- ☑ **It was not Jonah: not in words which man's wisdom teaches but that which the Holy Spirit teaches!**
- ☑ "For what man knows the things of a man **except the spirit of the man which is in him?** Even so **no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, **not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit**

teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But **the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him**; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." I Corinthians 2:11-14 NKJV

- ☑️ Jonah's simple words could mean nothing to the people of Nineveh... "*Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!*" had God not prepared their hearts beforehand!
 - ☑️ Man can only know the things of man; the things of God can only be understood by the Spirit of God!
 - ☑️ Conclusion: It was the Spirit of God that was at work in Nineveh; Jonah was simply a message!
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- ☑️ "*Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes.*" Jonah 3:6 NKJV
 - ☑️ **As the leader goes, so goes the people!**
 - ☑️ The King of Nineveh instantly repented, obviously, because those simple words of Jonah, were received in a heart prepared for a change.
 - ☑️ **The Heart Change MUST come first!**

- ☑ “We love Him because He first loved us.” I John 4:19
NKJV
- ☑ “But **he who received seed on the good ground** [*a softened fertile heart*] is he who **hears the word and understands it**, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”” Matthew 13:23 NKJV
- ☑ “**I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone** out of your flesh and **give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes**, and you will keep My judgments and do them.” Ezekiel 36:26-27 NKJV
- ☑ Can you see it now?
 - ☑ He loves us first!
 - ☑ The seeds must be received in good soil (a fertile heart) for them to have heard the word and UNDERSTOOD!
 - ☑ Mechanism: Yahweh takes turns a heart of stone to a heart of flesh; Yahweh places His Spirit within us!
 - ☑ You see it now? *“For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so **no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might***

know the things that have been freely given to us by God.” I Corinthians 2:11-12 NKJV

- ☑️ Jonah had to go so someone they can hear!
- ☑️ *“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” Romans 10:14 NKJV*

☑️ **If the heart is not changed first...**

- ☑️ “And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: **‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull.** Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, **Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,** So that I should heal them.” Matthew 13:14-15 NKJV

- ☑️ Hearing you will hear and understand nothing!
- ☑️ Seeing you will see and perceive nothing!
- ☑️ Hearts of stone will receive nothing!
- ☑️ Repentance is impossible!

- ☑️ *“And **he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles,***

saying, *Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.*" *Jonah 3:7-8 NKJV*

☑ **A declaration by the king and his nobles...sound familiar?**

☑ A King and his disciples!

☑ "And **Jesus came and spoke** to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."

Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV

☑ Proclaim throughout the land—go therefore—repent from your evil ways, baptized unto repentance, teach them to obey!

☑ "***Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?***" *Jonah 3:9 NKJV*

☑ **The King is not sure what will happen but...**

- ☑ Will God relent from the destruction we are warned about, (“Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” Jonah 3:4) we don’t know... but repent we will anyway!
- ☑ **Dead in trespasses and sins...made us alive!**
- ☑ “And you He made alive, who were **dead in trespasses and sins**, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ***{8} For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works**, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for

good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:1-10 NKJV

- ☑ While dead, He made us alive!
- ☑ By His grace we are saved!
- ☑ It's not of works, but it is FOR works!
- ☑ In other words, works are a product of being “saved,” not the cause; they are the result!
- ☑ **Works are empowered by the same grace that saved you!**
- ☑ “Therefore, having been **justified by faith, we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom **also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand**, and **rejoice in hope** of the glory of God. And not only that, but we **also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint**, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” Romans 5:1-5 NKJV
- ☑ We have peace with God because he has reconciled us through faith (*For by grace you have been saved through faith—Ephesians 2:8).
- ☑ We access to grace to work out all He has for us!

- ☑ And we have hope that will never disappoint us!

- ☑ *“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.” Jonah 3:10
NKJV*

- ☑ **God saw...**
 - ☑ God saw the fruit of their changed hearts!

- ☑ **They turned (true repentance)**
 - ☑ They had truly repented from their evil ways! *“...**let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.**”* Jonah 3:8

- ☑ **God relented...**
 - ☑ So God reversed His judgment...
 - ☑ *“...cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.”* Jonah 1:2 NKJV
 - ☑ **“Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”**
Jonah 3:4
 - ☑ Why?
 - ☑ **“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together,

and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us** in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:4-7 NKJV

- ☑ **Nineveh a perfect example:**
- ☑ In the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us!
- ☑ Even when we were dead in trespasses, He made us alive together with Christ!

NEXT TEACHING

Ugly (Jonah 4:1-11)