

Jonah 3:1-10

Jonah was an 8th century prophet, who was also mentioned briefly in 2 Kings 14:25. Jonah was used of God to warn the people of Nineveh of their impending doom, if they did not turn away from their sinful ways and honor God. The people of Nineveh paid attention, repented of their sin, and God forgave them. Jonah's hatred for the Ninevites drove him to anger over God's grace and their repentance, just days after Jonah sang his gratitude for God's mercy extended to **him** in the belly of a fish.

Nineveh's behavior could be likened to today's extreme terrorists. Jonah did not want to worship with them. He felt justified in resisting God's prophetic assignment.

The theme of Jonah is repentance. The people of Nineveh repented and even God changed His mind too. Jonah was the only character digging in his heels. He cared more for a short-lived plant at the close of the story (4:8), than for more than 120,000 people. The book ends with God asking, "*Excuse Me? You feel sorry for the plant? What about the people of Nineveh?*"

We don't know Jonah's response, but it doesn't matter. God's question is really for us.

- Do we want to see the world saved? Even those who demonstrate evil and inflict harm?
- Will we extend grace and forgiveness as the Lord does?
- Are we willing to repent of bias and prejudice that does not reveal the heart of God?
- God will give us His heart of compassion if we repent of our sin and receive His grace. Romans 14:12-13; Psalm 86:15; Ephesians 4:32

Next week: *Psalm 111*

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January 21, 2018

Repentance

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Today: *Psalm 62 (What is God saying to you?)*

Monday: *Isaiah 6:1-8*

Tuesday: *Luke 5:1-11*

Wednesday: *Acts 9:1-22*

Thursday: *1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

Friday: *2 Corinthians 4*

Saturday: *John 21:15-19*

Almighty God, in every age You have called out women and men to be Your faithful servants. We believe You have now called us to join that great company who seek to follow You. Grant unto us today and always, a clear vision of Your call and strength to fulfill the ministry assigned to us.

In the Name of Christ we pray, Amen.

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