

Yona 3:1-10

Yona alikuwa nabii wa karne ya 8, ambaye pia alielezewa kwa ufupi katika 2 Wafalme 14:25. Yona alitumiwa kwa Mungu kuwaonya watu wa Ninawi juu ya adhabu yao iliyokuja, ikiwa hawakuacha njia zao za dhambi na kumheshimu Mungu. Watu wa Ninive walisikiliza, wakatubu dhambi zao, na Mungu aliwasamehe. Chuki cha Yona kwa watu wa Ninawi kilimchochea hasira juu ya neema ya Mungu na toba yao, siku chache baada ya Yona aliimba shukrani kwa huruma ya Mungu iliyotolewa kwake ndani ya tumbo la samaki.

Tabia ya Nineve inaweza kulinganishwa na magaidi wa leo. Yona hakutaka kuabudu pamoja nao. Alihisi kuwa mwenye haki katika kupinga kazi ya unabii wa Mungu.

Mandhari ya Yona ni toba. Watu wa Ninawi walitubu na hata Mungu alibadili mawazo Yake pia. Yona ndiye tabia pekee ya kuchimba visigino. Alijali zaidi kwa mmea wa muda mfupi karibu na hadithi (4: 8), kuliko watu zaidi ya 120,000. Kitabu kinamalizika na Mungu akiuliza, "*Samahani? Unajisikia kwa mmea? Vipi kuhusu watu wa Ninawi?*"

Hatujui jibu la Yona, lakini haijalishi. Swali la Mungu ni kweli kwetu.

- Je, tunataka kuona ulimwengu uokolewa? Hata wale wanaoonyesha uovu na kuwadhuru?
- Tutaongeza neema na msamaha kama Bwana anavyofanya?
- Je, tuko tayari kutubu upendeleo na chuki ambazo hazifunulii moyo wa Mungu?
- Mungu atatupa moyo wake wa huruma ikiwa tunatubu dhambi zetu na kupokea neema Yake. Warumi 14: 12-13; Zaburi 86:15; Waefeso 4:32

Wiki ijayo: *Zaburi 111*

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*

Januari 21, 2018

Kugeuka kutoka kwa dhambi

MASOMO YA MAANDIKO YA WIKI HII:

Leo: *Zaburi 62 (Mungu anakuambia nini?)*

Jumatatu: *Isaya 6: 1-8*

Jumanne: *Luka 5: 1-11*

Jumatano: *Matendo 9: 1-22*

Alhamisi: *1 Wakorintho 1: 26-31*

Ijumaa: *2 Wakorintho 4*

Jumamosi: *Yohana 21:15-19*

Mungu Mwenye Nguvu, katika kila umri Umewaita wanawake na watu kuwa watumishi wako waaminifu. Tunaamini una sasa anatuita sisi kujiunga na kampuni hiyo kubwa inayotaka kukufuata. Tupe leo na daima, maono wazi ya Yako wito na nguvu ili kutimiza huduma ambayo tuliyopewa. Katika Jina la Kristo tunaomba, Amen.

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.