

The book of Jonah: Chapter 3

Read chapter 3

What is the main point of chapter 3?

Verse 1

- What came to Jonah a second time?
- What does that mean?
- Does God give us second a second chance when we have disobeyed him?
- Have you ever disobeyed God and were given a second chance, or are hoping to get a second chance, at what he had told you to do?

Verses 2 & 3

- What was God's command to Jonah?
- The first time God sent Jonah he gave him a specific message? What message did he give Jonah to tell the people of Nineveh this time?
- What does "proclaim" mean? Should Jonah have got involved in other work in Nineveh, such as charitable work, etc.
- What does that mean for us?
- What was Jonah's response this time?
- Where was Nineveh and what country was it the capital city of?
- Why did God call Nineveh a great city?
- How many days did Jonah take to go through the city?
- Do you think it took commitment and effort by Jonah to obey God?
- How much commitment and effort do you put into being obedient to God in whatever he has commanded you to do?

Verse 4

- What did Jonah begin to do when he got to Nineveh?
- How long did it take him?
- What was his message to Nineveh?
- Where did he get this message from?
- Why 40 days?
- Do you think that it was right to preach such a severe message?
 - Ezekiel 33: 7 – 16
 - What is the message of Ezekiel in this passage?
 - How does it relate to the preaching of Jonah to Nineveh?
- How would you have felt if God gave you such a severe message to tell someone or some people?
- Would you do it if he told you to do it?

Verses 5 & 6

- What was the response of the Ninevites?
- Who did they believe?
- Ultimately who did the message reach in Nineveh?
- What did he do?
- What does it mean when they put on sackcloth and sat in the dust?
- How do we know that they really believed?
 - James 2: 14 – 24
- Would it be better if you humbled yourself before God or waited for him to humble you?
- In what way do your works reflect your faith in your personal life?
- Are there aspects of your life where your works don't reflect your faith?
- What do you need to do to change that?

Verses 7 – 9

- What did the king of Nineveh do?
- What shouldn't happen according to the king? (v.7)
- What three things should they do? (v.8)
 - What word do we use to refer to giving up evil and turning to God?
 - Psalm 66: 18
- What was the result that they hoped for by doing this? (v.9)
- Were they sure of this outcome?
- What aspects of God's character do we learn from verse 9?
- How far will you go to humble yourself to make your life right with God?

Verse 10

- What was God's response to the Ninevites?
- What do we learn about God in this verse?
- Where else in the Bible do we see God relented from what he had threatened to do?
- How does that make you feel?
- Do you think that God will really carry out his threats if people don't humble themselves and repent?
- Does God want to do that?
 - 2 Peter 3: 9