

October 6, 2024

God's Mercy
Jonah 3-4
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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we will be studying the last two chapters of Jonah. In this passage God sends Jonah to a city that is hostile to Jonah's people. Jonah is reluctant but God is very persuasive. God has an overwhelming desire to share His mercy with all of creation and shows Jonah what it means to have a heart like God. Join us this week as we discuss our responsibility to communicate God's mercy.



Nineveh Repents

3 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you.” ³So Jonah got up and went to Nineveh according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk. ⁴Then Jonah began to go through the city one day’s walk; and he cried out and said, “Forty more days, and Nineveh will be overthrown.”

⁵Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. ⁶When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, removed his robe from himself, covered *himself* with sackcloth, and sat on the dust. ⁷And he issued a proclamation, and it said, “In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: No person, animal, herd, or flock is to taste anything. They are not to eat, or drink water. ⁸But *every* person and animal must be covered with sackcloth; and *people* are to call on God vehemently, and they are to turn, each one from his evil way, and from the violence which is in their hands. ⁹Who knows, God may turn and relent, and turn from His burning anger so that we will not perish.”

¹⁰When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their evil way, then God relented of the disaster which He had declared He would bring on them. So He did not do *it*.

Jonah’s Displeasure Rebuked

4 But it greatly displeased Jonah, and he became angry. ²Then he prayed to the Lord and said, “Please Lord, was this not what I said when I was still in my *own* country? Therefore in anticipation of *this* I fled to Tarshish, since I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in mercy, and One who relents of disaster. ³So now, Lord, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life.” ⁴But the Lord said, “Do you have a good reason to be angry?”

⁵Then Jonah left the city and sat down east of it. There he made a shelter for himself and sat under it in the shade, until he could see what would happen in the city. ⁶So the Lord God designated a plant, and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head, to relieve him of his discomfort. And Jonah was overjoyed about the plant. ⁷But God designated a worm when dawn came the next day, and it attacked the plant and it withered. ⁸And when the sun came up God designated a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah’s head so that he became faint, and he begged with *all* his soul to die, saying, “Death is better to me than life!”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Do you have a good reason to be angry about the plant?” And he said, “I have good reason to be angry, *even* to the point of death!” ¹⁰Then the Lord said, “You had compassion on the plant, for which you did not work and *which* you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight. ¹¹Should I not also have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 people, who do not know *the difference* between their right hand and their left, *as well as* many animals?”

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

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🕒 Explore His Word (Interpretation) (For Community group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

1. Why is there reference that God came to Jonah a second time? Jon 3:1
2. Why do you think God gave Jonah another chance?
3. What was God's proclamation for Nineveh? Jon 3:4
4. What is Nineveh's response to God's proclamation?
5. What made Jonah angry in Jonah 4:1?
6. What did Jonah hope would be the outcome, while he watched? Jon 4:4-5
7. Between Nineveh and Jonah who was obedient?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

8. Why do you believe and obey what God says?

9. How might we win those that disagree with Christianity?

10. What are some things that stop us from telling others about the grace of God?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

Sermon Notes