

Title: Repentance at the Preaching of God's Word (Jonah 3:1-10)

(2 Kings 17:6-23; 2 Samuel 12:1-23, Joel 2:12-17, Romans 10:17)

I. Introduction:

A. It is exclusively by the hearing of God's word that people can have faith **Romans 10:17**
So faith comes from hearing and hearing through the Word of Christ

B. So whatever bent you have towards evangelism (and they can be polarizing issues in the church) you have to preach God's word for people to be able to repent and believe. Relational evangelism, Soap box on the street corner, at work, passing out tracts, etc. You have to get to God's Word, specifically the message of Christ.

II. The Word of the Lord is powerful – God speaks!!! (v. 1)

A. 3:1 – Powerful to create the earth and heavens; Powerful to control the seas; Powerful to control a fish to swallow Jonah (but not kill him!), and Powerful to make that fish puke Jonah back onto dry land... Now, God speaks to Jonah a second time. Wow. I think it is worth mentioning that it is amazing that God spoke to Jonah a second time. That he would still pursue the wicked Ninevites and Jonah. But I am most amazed that God spoke! He did it again! He spoke! And He is still speaking today to you and to me.

B. He continues to pursue the wicked with the offer of repentance and will not be thwarted in spite of unbelieving, unwilling, rebellious prophets (like me!)

III. You must respond to God's call/Repentance (vv. 2-3)

A. 3:2-3a. “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord.”

1. You cannot stay where you are and go with God.

2. God says God and preach repentance to these people! Did Jonah deserve to preach repentance to them? Only because God chose him and because he was speaking the word of the Lord. That should work in us great humility. Don't ever be proud because God chooses to use you... He spoke through a donkey at one time...

B. 3:3b-4. Jonah approaches this great city and begins walking through the city and when he gets 1 day's journey in, he stops, sets up his soap box and calls out at the top of his voice “Repent!”

IV. Response: The self-righteous and the knowingly un-righteous (vv. 5-8)

A. 2 Kings 17:6-23 – Exile because of their idolatry – Specifically vv. **13-14** *Yet the Lord warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes in accordance with all the Law that I commanded you fathers, and that I sent you by my servants the prophets.” But they would not listen, but were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in the Lord their God.*

1. Israel was taken into captivity because of their rebellion (2 Kings 17:7). God extended grace, time and time again, and forgave them when they repented. They forsook steadfast love to pursue idols. They pursued things made by man's hands – cars, houses, money, fame, status, knowledge, prestige, power, peace etc.

2. Why did they not repent? The Word of the Lord came to them time and time again!

B. Joel 2:12-14 – Hope in the Lord – vv.12-14 “*Yet even now*” declares the Lord, “*return to me with all your heat, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.*” *Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him.*

C. Let's look at the **repentance of the Ninevites now in contrast to the lack of repentance in the Israelites.**

1. 2 Kings 17:13 - “The Lord warned [them] by every prophet... but they would not listen [and] did not believe in the Lord their God.”

2. Jonah 3:4 “And He called out... and the people of Nineveh believed God.”

3. Belief in God is a necessary component of repentance.

4. You cannot respond to God in repentance without belief in Him. Belief in who he is and that what he says is true.

5. Repentance is marked by brokenness over your sin and the sins of others.

a. Jonah 3:5b-8 True sorrow and brokenness over sin should be notable outwardly. The problem is that **we are often more concerned with the outward** representation than the inward heart attitude.

b. The wicked king was broken for himself and for his people

c. Feeling our offense before a holy God. Not as a means of paying for it, but because the gospel has so impacted you because you have been given so much that your sin devastates you. That unlike the Israelites and like the Ninevites when you hear of your sin, you are cut to the heart.

d. See the repentance of David in **2 Samuel 12:1-23.**

i. David is quick to say that man deserves to die! And when Nathan rebukes him saying “You are that man!” v. 13 *David said to Nathan “I have sinned against the Lord” and Nathan said to David, “The Lord has also put away your sin; you shall not die.”* Our God is merciful.

V. Our HOPE is in the LORD! (vv. 9-10)

A. **2:9** *Salvation belongs to the Lord!*

B. The hope of David **2 Sam. 12:22**

C. The hope of the Ninevites v. 9

1. There was no pointing at God and saying See God! See we repented! You owe us salvation! You should relent from our consequences now since we fasted and rent our clothes! Instead, there was a humility and an acceptance of their sin and knowing that God is just in his anger.

VI. Conclusion: God grants repentance and gives forgiveness

A. God shows time and time again his compassion for the people whom he has made.

B. v. 10 This display of God's mercy and grace is even more beautiful in light of the book of Nahum – over a century later, God does destroy the city. God knows the past, present, and future. He knows the sins you have committed, do commit and will commit and yet he extends grace and mercy to you.