



God's Relenting in Our Repentance

Jonah 3:1-10 |

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RELATED SCRIPTURES

Romans 2:14-15 + 3:21-25 | Psalm 19 | Hebrews 4:12

SUMMARY

What was going through Jonah's head as he walked through that "great city"? Did his mind spin as the people responded reasonably to his message of impending disaster? When the king of the city "arose from his throne" did the parallel to his own rising catch Jonah off guard? Would this pagan king's rising be similar to Jonah's own fleeing from the Word of Yahweh?

We know how the story goes. The pagan king chooses the more righteous path than the prodigal prophet. And we laugh to ourselves. "Oh Jonah, when will you learn?" But in our laughing do we consider that the Pharisees likely laughed to themselves about Jonah's foolishness as well? **Is that why Jesus responded to them the way he did in Matthew 12:28-41?**

"Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here."

GROUP QUESTIONS

- From the sermon, or your direct reading of Jonah 3:1-10, share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you about how God works in Nineveh and in Jonah?
- Jonah preached the message God gave him. What sort of attitude do you think he preached it with?
- Hebrews 4:12 tells us many things, but it clearly tells us that God's Word cuts right to the heart. Isaiah 55 tells us that God's Word goes out and accomplishes exactly as he intends. How would you describe what God wanted his Word to accomplish? In Nineveh? In Jonah?
- If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of these portions of Scripture, what is that thing?