

## **It's Never Too Late... (Jonah 3; p 775)**

### **... To Receive God's Pardon (3:4-9)**

- **God is fiercely angry at sin (9) and judges sinners (4)—who perish (9)**
- **So believe that (5a) and repent [turn from sin/idols to God] (5b-9; 2:8; 1 Thess 1:9)**
  - 1 Thess 1:9: "...you turned to God from idols to serve the true and living God."
  - Jer 18:17-18: "If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intend to do to it."
  - See also Nahum, Isa 10:12; 31:8
- **And discover not just God's pardon (9-10) but His steadfast love (2:8-10; 4:2)**
  - Matt 12:41: "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."
  - Jn 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

***So, allow Jesus to be your Savior***

### **... To (Re)join God's Mission (3:1-4)**

- **God's steadfast love (2:8) and desire that none should perish (3:10; 1 Tim 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9) brought about His mission to save (2:9)**
  - 1 Tim 2:3,4: "God our Savior...desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."
  - 2 Pet 3:9: "The Lord...is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."
- **He invites you, & Hillcrest Bible Church, to actively (re)join this rescue mission**  
*"We glorify God by making disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)*
  - ***So, pray for those far from God***
    - *for the desire & boldness to share Christ sensitively, & for open hearts*
    - *for workers/leaders in the harvest (our missionaries, pastor[s] & elders)*
  - ***So, prioritize those far from God***
    - *reconsider your relational focus (inside or outside the church?)*
    - *reconsider your evangelistic model (attractional and incarnational?)*

## Hearing & Doing Questions

1. God tells Jonah to “Call out against it [Nineveh] the message that I tell you” (3:2). What was that message (3:4)? Is there a place for that same kind of prophetic approach today? Why or why not?
2. Society tends to caricature God as either overly harsh towards sin, or extremely soft towards sin. How does Jonah 3 address these two extremes?
3. What contrasts do you see between Jonah’s response to the Word of the LORD the first time it comes to him (1:1-3) and the Assyrians’/Ninevites’ response the first time it comes to them (3:5)? Why is the Ninevites’ response so surprising (see 1:2 and 3:8)? Could this be the greatest miracle in the book?
4. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:9 and Jonah 2:8 and 3:5-8. From these verses, how would you define repentance?
5. Jonah refused to participate in God’s mission the first time (1:2-3) but obeyed the second time (3:1-4). Why and how do you think he changed?
6. How does the message of Jonah so far (chapters 1-3) challenge you to think and act differently regarding the saving mission of God?
7. These pagan Ninevites believed God and responded in repentance. How will you live differently in light of the holiness of God, his offense at sin, and his boundless, saving compassion in Christ? Which of the “Pray/Prioritize” application points on page 1 will you implement?