

THE REVIVAL IN NINEVEH

JONAH 3

Text:

Introduction:

Perhaps the greatest revival ever in history is the one recorded here in the book of Jonah. I want us to look at the elements of this revival, not to duplicate it but to learn from it. Here we see a caring God, a changed preacher, and a converted people.

1. A CARING GOD (3:10)

The people repent and God relents.

They were under a death sentence. They were living on death row. They had 40 days until execution.

Their wickedness had become so bad that God had had enough. God sent Jonah to announce their pending doom.

Jonah 3:10

¹⁰ And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did *it* not.

God can and will change his mind. Jonah knew this about God. He knew that God was a not only a God of judgment but also a God of mercy.

Jonah 4:2

² And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, *was* not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou *art* a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

2. A CHANGED PREACHER (2:9-3:4)

Romans 10:17

¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:14

¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

God needed a preacher. He sent the best he had (Jonah) but Jonah wasn't ready or willing.

God had to change his heart. Jonah surrenders and says,

Jonah 2:9

⁹ But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay *that* that I have vowed. Salvation *is* of the LORD.

Jonah says, “My job is to preach, anywhere, anytime to anyone you want. Your job is to save anyone you chose.”

A. Jonah Became an Obedient Servant (3:3) “So” instead of “But” (1:3)

Jonah 3:3

³ So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

Jonah 1:3

³ But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

God is the God of second chances. Abraham, Moses, David, Peter, Paul, me, you.

B. Jonah Became an Obvious Sign (Luke 11:30)

Luke 11:30

³⁰ For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.

Something dramatic happened that shook the Ninevites so much that upon first seeing and hearing Jonah they repent and turn to God.

C. Jonah Preached an Overwhelming Sermon (3:4)

It has only 8 words.

Illustration

The story of Charles Spurgeon's conversion. As a boy he attended a service at a Primitive Methodist Chapel. The preacher was uneducated and preached a simple, short sermon. "Look unto Me and be ye saved" was his text. He said, "Anyone can look. It don't take much effort. A weak man can look. An uneducated man can look. It don't take any money. A poor man can look. Quit looking at yourself. Look to Christ. The preacher saw Spurgeon and said, "Young man you look miserable and you will always look miserable until you look to Jesus. Young man, look, look, look!" Spurgeon was saved that night.

3. A CONVERTED PEOPLE (3:5-9)

A. Supplication (Prayer)

B. Sackcloth (sorrow and repentance) 3:6

Paul said, "Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation." (2 Cor.7:9)

C. Sacrifice (1:16)

What must we give up to be saved? Habits, affections, relationships, position? The hymn says it, "All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood."

D. Surrender

Jonah 3:8

⁸But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that *is* in their hands.

Close

Has there been a change in your life? Have you really been converted? God still cares.