



Series: Running From God

Sermon: Part 4: Responding To God

Date: Sunday, October 6th, 2024

Then the Word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." (Jonah 3:1-2)

God Extended Mercy To Jonah:

1. Showing Jonah that God's judgment and mercy could not be manipulated

2. Because God loved Jonah and wanted to do an internal work in Jonah in order to deal with the hatred and judgment that Jonah was harboring

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much." (Luke 16:10)

Jonah obeyed the Word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." (Jonah 3:3-4)

The encouragement for all believers is to frequently check our _____ in what we say, what we do, and in what we think.

Scriptures referenced in sermon message: Psalm 139:23-24 ESV, Exodus 34:28

The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. (Jonah 3:5)

A _____: Where people abstain from food for a certain period of time and it is done in conjunction with prayer as people seek God

It was not the act of putting on sackcloth and ashes that moved God to intervene, but the _____ that said: "God I'm serious in seeking You and I'm doing whatever it takes to show you that I need Your help."

When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. This is the proclamation he [the king] issued in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish." (Jonah 3:6-9)



It also demonstrates that when you have humbled and surrendered citizens relying on the power of God, you can change leaders, structures, and governments.

Repentance is not a one time thing but a daily lifestyle, moment by moment of confessing our sins as we turn from our sins and take steps to turn our heart, our mind, and our life towards going in God's direction.

It is _____ too late to turn from our ways and start going God's way.

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, He relented and did not bring on them the destruction He had threatened. (Jonah 3:10)

It is not a matter of simply hearing and knowing what God has to say, but being _____ to do what God has to say.

Whenever we repent we end up appealing to God's mercy, not His justice.

When we give God all of ourselves and do not hold anything back from Him, powerful transformation happens.

Revival begins with us. It is not just a matter of believing in Jesus as your Savior, but allowing Him to be Lord over all areas of your life.

Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. (Matthew 3:8 NLT)

Bottom Line: *It is never too late to turn from our ways and start going God's way.*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

1. What life test do you find yourself continually repeating because you haven't learned your lesson?
2. How may God be inviting you to frequently be checking your motives in what you say, what you do, and in what you think?
3. How do your judgments of others prevent you from engaging with them about the things of God?

Songs used in service: The Jesus Way (Phil Wickham), In Christ Alone (Stuart Townend), So Will I [100 Billion X] (Benjamin William Hastings), You've Already Won (Shane & Shane)

Any prayer requests?

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Name _____ Date: _____ Email: _____

What can we be praying for you about?