

## **Jonah: An Enthusiastic God**

### **Jonah 3**

*Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: <sup>2</sup> "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."*

*<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." <sup>5</sup> The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.*

*<sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> This is the proclamation he 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."*

*<sup>10</sup> 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*

- **God is enthused to lovingly reestablish a reluctant prophet.**
- **God is enthused to lovingly relate to an evil, violent people.**

### **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

- 1. Do you view God as enthusiastic to save and to relate to you and others? Why or why not?**
- 2. Jonah 3:1-2 shows that God desires to give you a second chance. Has He ever given you a second chance? What was it?**
- 3. What was the reason or reasons God sent Jonah to deliver a message of judgment to such murderous pagans? Do you have any messages that you need to deliver to non-believers? See 2 Cor. 5:17-21.**

**4. Has God's enthusiastic love and forgiveness affected your hesitancy to serve Him and to share Him with others? Do you feel enthusiastic to love and forgive? Why or why not?**

**5. Daryl Davis, an African-American, decided to address the issue of the existence of the Ku Klux Klan. Rather than throwing rocks and shouting obscenities or simply hating from a distance, he sought out the leaders of the Klan. He met with them individually and asked the question, "How can you hate me if you don't even know me?" Over three decades, he has persuaded 200 KKK members to leave the organization.**

<http://www.npr.org/2017/08/20/544861933/how-one-man-convinced-200-ku-klux-klan-members-to-give-up-their-ropes>

**6. Who do you need to address with the truth? Who do you need to tell about the love of Christ? Are you putting it off and just talking from the sidelines? Like Daryl Davis, what might be some simple things you can do to break out of the bonds of hesitation, anger, and fear? In what ways are you putting off taking the message of Jesus to others?**

**Prayers:**

- **Who in your family do you need to tell about the love of Christ? Who in your neighborhood? Who at work? Pray for them and for your enthusiasm to tell them.**
- **Ask God to make clear to you the things that make you procrastinate when you think of sharing Christ with others.**

#### **Memory Verse**

*" . . . that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation." -2 Corinthians 5:19*

#### **Additional Resources on Jonah & Nineveh:**

<http://www.soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/jonah.pdf>

<http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2009/05/28/Nahum2c-Nineveh-and-Those-Nasty-Assyrians.aspx>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nineveh>

[http://www.bible-history.com/past/art/nineveh\\_sketch.gif](http://www.bible-history.com/past/art/nineveh_sketch.gif)

