

# A HEART LIKE HIS

Part 5.0 Nineveh Gets a Second Chance Jonah 3:3-10

God has a BOUNDARY line for evil

1:2; Acts 17:25-26; 2 Peter 3:9

- Nineveh's evil crossed that line = divine INTERVENTION
  - Declaring EVIL good and GOOD evil Isaiah 5:20
  - Threatening God's creation of HUMANITY  
Genesis 6:5, 9:14-15, 15:16
- God starts the CALENDAR on Nineveh's judgement 3:2
- God sends a 'DOVE' to Nineveh Acts 17:27
  - Jonah's name = 'dove'; messenger of PEACE
  - Jonah's timeline = 40 days; preparation, PROBATION

Nineveh's REACTION to God's declaration 3:3-9

- The people launch a GRASSROOTS repentance movement
  - They BELIEVED in God
  - They called for a FAST with SACKCLOTH
- The KING joins the repentance movement
  - His personal repentance; changed THRONES,  
changed ROBES
  - His all-encompassing NATIONAL decree
    - Widespread FASTING, comprehensive HUMILITY,  
intense prayer GATHERINGS

God's response to Nineveh's response 3:10

- He SPARES Nineveh from destruction
- He 'RELENTS' from what He declared

Auburn Grace Community Church – February 16, 2020

## Life Group Questions – February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Jonah 3:10** 'When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.'

### QUICK REVIEW

1. How have you seen God to be a God of second chances in your life? As a result, are you also now prone to freely give mercy and forgiveness? Why or why not?
2. Every day is a fresh new start in your relationship with God. How can this promised "newness" with God make you a new creation daily? Why must we be constantly renewed?

### MY STORY

1. All of us, to one degree or another, have taken advantage of God's grace. We willfully disobey, believing we are off-the-hook and won't be held into account. How is this justifying or excusing our sin? Doesn't this imply that we inwardly believe that we deserve His grace? Explain.
2. How does your repentance make your personal testimony more effective?
3. Pastor Phil taught us about "cultural collective consciousness." What are some of the indicators that point to a country's collective impenitence and apostasy? What would it take for an entire culture to enter into a season of culture-wide repentance? What are our individual roles? How might we see God relenting?

### GOING DEEP

1. Re-read Jonah 3. List all the things the Ninevites and their king did that showed the seriousness of their repentance. How does this national and passionate penitence speak into our relationship with God? What kind of evidence should there be if we are truly repentant?
2. "...then God *relented*..." (v. 10) What does this imply about God's patience and His pursuit of us? (see Jeremiah 18:7-8 and the Book of Nahum). What conclusions can we draw about God's character?
3. Read Romans 2:4. How does God's kindness lead us to repentance? How can we know with certainty that God is not willing that anyone would perish? (see 2 Peter 3:9)
4. What is the difference between the longsuffering of man and the longsuffering of God?
5. Read 1 John 1:8-10. According to this passage, if we confess our sins, God is faithful to forgive. Why isn't a simple confession of our imperfections enough for our salvation (e.g. "We all make mistakes.")? How do we deceive ourselves by not admitting that we are sinners?

### PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?
2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for you to remember?