

# A HEART LIKE HIS

Part 5.1 Nineveh Gets a Second Chance Jonah 3:1-4:4

**Life Group Questions – February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**

God has a BOUNDARY line for evil 3:1-3; 2 Peter 3:9

- Nineveh's evil crossed that line = divine INTERVENTION
- God starts the CALENDAR on Nineveh's judgement
- God sends a messenger of PEACE

Nineveh's REACTION to God's declaration 3:4-9

- 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 and ROBES
  - His all-encompassing NATIONAL decree
  - Was this TRANSACTIONAL or TRANSFORMATIVE repentance?

God responds to Nineveh with MERCY 3:10

- God 'RELENTS' and SPARES Nineveh

Jonah responds to God with FURY 4:1-4

- He BURNED with anger

**Acts 17:25-27** "...and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us..."

## QUICK REVIEW

1. Our Heavenly Father has a boundary line when it comes to tolerating evil. Pastor Phil identified three precursors of this boundary violation that forces God's hand and prompts divine intervention. What are the three signs that may cause God to act through calamity?
2. Using Nineveh's repentance for context, what is the difference between being "spared" and being "saved"? Which one was Nineveh? Did God forgive the Ninevites? Explain.

## MY STORY

1. God is not willing that anyone would perish. (see 2 Peter 3:9) What qualities do you observe about His messenger of choice, Jonah, that corroborates this? Why would God choose you to be His messenger?
2. Historians would likely agree that there have been a few waves of spiritual revival across America. What were some of the common benchmarks that were in place during these Great Awakenings? What do you think would have happened to America as a nation if the revivals had not taken root?

## GOING DEEP

1. What is the difference between "transactional" repentance and "transformational" repentance? Cite two or three biblical references for each.
2. What are some of the pitfalls in our relationship with God when our repentance remains transactional? On the other hand, how does day-by-day transformational repentance move us to maturity and completeness? Can transactional repentance also move us toward maturity?
3. Read Jonah 4. Highlight the verses that show that Jonah was not at peace. How did God respond to Jonah's sour disposition? Using Job 40-42, compare God's response to Job and Jonah. What conclusions can you make from the stark differences?
4. As a Life Group, discuss some ideas on how to start a grassroots repentance movement in your homes and in your neighborhoods. What foundational components must be in place before you begin? Why must such a grassroots endeavor be initiated by everyday people and not by people with position or power?

## 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?