



Week 6: Dedication or Disobedience

Jonah 3:1-10

A. The Jonah of it All

1. Jonah was called to an Assyrian Nation.

“The Word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: ‘Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before Me.’”

Jonah 1:1-2 (NIV)

2. Jonah ran; God planned.

“But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed to Tarshish.” Jonah 1:3a

3. Jonah wanted judgement; God wanted forgiveness.

“But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry.” Jonah 4:1 (NIV)

B. Jonah’s Ministry in Nineveh

1. A second chance

“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 (NIV)

- a. A new beginning

- b. Go there and wait.

“The story of Jonah demonstrates why God so often leads us one step at a time without telling us more.” David Gusik

2. Jonah’s message was:

- a. You have 40 Days!

“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

- b. Preached with earnestness.

“The way Jonah preached was in between the soft-speaking, gentle-intoned, the unmoving and the noisy, blustering, screaming rant that manifests more of a turbulence of disorderly passions, than of the real inspired influence of the Spirit of God.” (Clarke)

C. The Response to Obedience

1. Nineveh’s response was repentance.

- a. They believed God.

“The Ninevites believed God.” Jonah 3:5a (NIV)

- b. They proclaimed a nationwide fast.

“A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. 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 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.’” Jonah 3:5b-8a (NIV)

- c. They cried out.

“Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.” Jonah 3:8b-c (NIV)

- d. They turned to God.

“Who knows? God may relent and with compassion turn from His fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

Jonah 3:9 (NIV)

2. God’s response to repentance.

- a. He relented.

“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 (NIV)

- b. He delayed the judgement.

“The Lord is slow to anger but great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished.” Nahum 1:3a (NIV)

D. What is our response?

1. Do we believe this story?

“He answered, ‘A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgement with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here.’” Matthew 12:39-41

2. We were all a Nineveh.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23 (NIV)

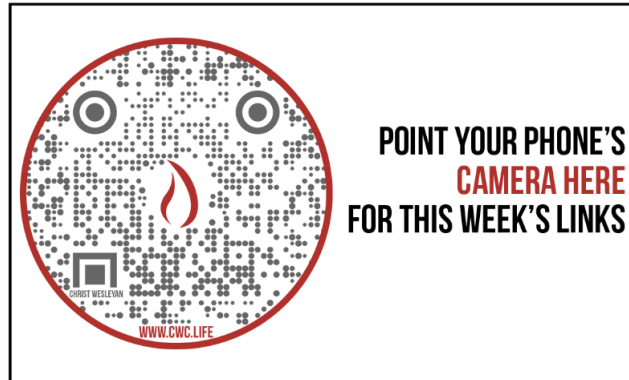
3. We all have a Nineveh or two.

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations...” Matthew 28:19a

4. Pray for revival in our nation.

*To begin a relationship with Jesus...
Text: I Choose Jesus to 570-273-0088*

**Next Sunday: Week 7: The Power of 40: Dedication
During Disaster?**



Giving & Attendance Update

Giving last Sunday: 98.1% of goal

Giving year to date: 89.8% of goal

Attendance last Sunday: 1,776

Salvations to date: 148 | Baptisms to date: 14