

NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOES

A study of the lives of Joseph, Jonah, and Job

Jonah - Chapter 3

Lesson 3

Thus far in our study, we have seen Jonah run from the word of the LORD. We have seen God prepare a means by which to get Jonah's attention. We have seen Jonah repent. We have seen God reverse Jonah's circumstances. Jonah 3 begins with the words *Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time*. In this chapter, we will see our God as the God of another chance. Bask in His mercy as you study. Turn from anything that is preventing you from enjoying it.

OBSERVATION: Read Jonah 3

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Jonah, the king, or the people of Nineveh*.

Key Words: *God (LORD), then, now, Jonah, Nineveh* (and its people), and the *king* of Nineveh
3. Using the key word *then*, list the progression of events.
4. The contrasting word *but* is used once in this chapter. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.

THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO JONAH: Read Jonah 3:1,2

1. *The word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time...* What does this say to you about the LORD?
 - a. Consider a time when God came to you a *second time*. What eventually led you back to obedience?

2. There are some obvious parallels between Jonah 1:1,2 and Jonah 3:1,2. What are they?
 - a. Who was threatened with the possibility of destruction in most of chapter 1?
 - 1.) What did God do after Jonah repented? Jonah 2:10

 - b. Who was threatened with the possibility of destruction in chapter 2?
 - 1.) What did God do after the people of Nineveh repented? Jonah 3:10

3. What lesson can we learn as we observe how God responds favorably to repentance whether it be from a prophet or from an evil nation?

4. According to Jonah 3:2, what was Jonah to do?
 - a. What do we know from Jonah 1:2 about this *message*?
 - 1.) Often God does not give us full instructions. We must take the first step in obedience, sometimes without knowing the whole picture. What thoughts are provoked in you when God does this in your life?

5. Notice, God told Jonah to *preach ... the message that I tell you*. In what ways does this instruction apply to teachers of God's *message* today?

6. Record the instructions of:

Jeremiah 1:17

Ezekiel 2:7

a. What is the intent of these verses?

b. Why do we allow the reactions of others to God's message for them to affect us?

JONAH DELIVERED THE WORD OF THE LORD: Read Jonah 3:3,4

1. In response to God's instruction, what did Jonah do? Verse 3

2. Read the parable of the two sons in Matthew 21:28-32 and answer the following questions:

What was the father's instruction to his sons?

What was the reaction of the first son?

What was the reaction of the second son?

Which of the two did the will of his father?

How does the reaction of the first son parallel that of Jonah?

What is the lesson of this parable?

3. What did Jonah *cry out*? Verse 4

4. Using synonyms, define the word *overthrown*.

5. Jonah's message to the people of Ninevah was a harsh message. What criteria should we apply to something we feel like God would have us say to someone before we say it (especially if it could be construed as harsh)?

NINEVEH RESPONDED TO THE WORD OF THE LORD: Read Jonah 3:5-9

1. Using the words of Jonah 3:5, record the three things the people of Ninevah did after Jonah preached the message of the LORD.

a. Notice that *the people of Nineveh believed God*. God had spoken to the people through Jonah. What tests do you personally use to determine if someone has spoken the word of the LORD or not?

b. Define the word *believe* as it would apply in this chapter.

2. *Then the word of the LORD came to the king of Nineveh*. What was his response? Verse 6

3. The king of Nineveh *proclaimed and published a decree*. Using Jonah 3:7,8, list the commands of the decree.

4. Although they were to *cover themselves* with sackcloth, according to Isaiah 59:6 what could they not do?

a. Good works are certainly good. However, they cannot cover up *evil deeds*. What were the people to do about their *evil way*?

1.) Record the example of 1 Thessalonians 1:9.

2.) Explain in your own words what it practically means to *turn from evil ways*.

5. Complete the sentence of Jonah 3:9. *Who can tell if God* _____

_____.

a. Underline the words *turn* and *relent*. Define each word as it might relate to the *works* of the people of Nineveh.

1.) The words of Numbers 23:19 may seem to contradict the hopes of the king of Nineveh. However, they actually reinforce them as we are reminded that God does not change His mind because He has made a mistake. Rather, He changes His actions. God promises judgment, but He willingly turns from judgment. What is our part?

6. Thoughtfully record the words of Joel 2:13,14.

a. What is your reaction to this glorious truth about God?

7. According to the last words of Jonah 3:9, what is the result of God not turning away from His fierce anger?

a. Using John 3:16, describe God's ultimate remedy.

THE LORD RESPONDS TO THE WORK OF NINEVEH: Read Jonah 3:10

1. Jonah 3:10 records the fact that God did *relent* of overthrowing Nineveh. What two reasons does verse 10 reveal?

a. Why are these two things important if we are to hope God will relent of the harm warned of?

2. Read Job 33:27,28. If a man confesses his sin and admits that he has *perverted what was right and it did not profit him*, what will God do?

a. Examine the two phrases of verse 27 and explain what it means to:

pervert what is right

understand that the sin committed *did not profit*.

1.) Why are these two things essentials of repentance?

2.) What are some examples of the "enlightening" that follows repentance?

3. Write in large block letters the last five words of Jonah 3.

- a. Consider a time in your life that God *did not do it* – as far as carrying out the judgment due to you. What is your response?

REVIEW: Read Jonah 3

1. What have you learned the hard way due to your disobedience of something God has instructed you to do?

2. What has this lesson taught you about repentance?

3. What has this lesson taught you about God?

*So rend your heart, and not your garments;
Return to the LORD your God,
For He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness;
And He relents from doing harm.
- Joel 2:13*

Observation Worksheet

Jonah 3:1-10

¹ Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you." ³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent. ⁴ And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵ So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. ⁶ Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. ⁷ And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, "Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. ⁸ But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹ Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?" ¹⁰ Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.