

GOD CAME A SECOND TIME

Jonah 3

Praise be to God that He comes a second time

In our darkest moments, God is there. It's hard to stop the spiral of sin. It feels easier in the moment to keep on the same path, even if that path is destructive, than to go through the hard work of change.

God isn't making an exception for Jonah. This is how He normally works in the lives of His people. He came a second time. "Where sin abounds, grace superabounds" (Ferguson).

"Repentance is a grace of God's Spirit whereby a sinner is inwardly humbled and visibly reformed" (Watson). It includes six essential ingredients:

- Sight of sin
- Sorrow for sin
- Confession of sin
- Shame for sin
- Hatred for sin
- Turning from sin

When a second chance comes-take it

God is so merciful giving you chance after chance after chance. Believe Him. The Ninevites heard Jonah and believed God. Jonah's preaching didn't provide a way out, but the king calls the people and says, "Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish" (v 9). This is a spectacular transformation.

God is immutable, which means He does not change. Mercy and judgment are two sides of the same coin. God is the same. The people repented. Though there was no promise of salvation, they put their hope in God and He delivered them because they humbled themselves and trusted Him.

There are only two ways to live - Matthias Media

Our way:

Reject God as ruler
Live our own way
Damaged by our rebellion
Facing death and judgment

God's new way:

Submit to Jesus as our ruler
Rely on Jesus' death and resurrection
Forgiven by God
Receive a new life that lasts forever

Repentance is the foundation for godly living

It is not the end, but the new beginning of your life in Christ. Though God does not need you for His work, He chooses to work through you. Each second chance leads us to further service and obedience to the Lord.

Today is a second chance. Repent and believe the good news.

Now, be on mission with God!

Key Point: God is the God of second chances. The normal experience of the Christian life is continual repentance leading toward service to God.

Small Group Questions:

What's a meaningful second chance you remember receiving from another person? What about from God?

Have you ever been the recipient of someone's incomplete or counterfeit repentance? What was that like? How do you know when someone's repentance is real? (Notice all that the Ninevites did in their repentance, Jonah 3:5-9.)

What spurs you on toward repentance? What is a hindrance?

Repentance is a turning, but also a call to action. In what ways has God redirected you to serve Him? What is God calling you towards right now?