


Jonah: Perplexing Prophet

Part 4 Jonah Preaches

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

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Questions for Community Group Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you? ...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- From time to time, we all wish for a "do over". Tell about a time when God gave you a second chance. What was the situation? How did you respond the **first** time? How did you respond the **second** time?

Read John 21:15–17. After Peter denied Jesus three times, Jesus restored their fellowship and re-commissioned him for ministry. How has God ministered **to you** after a personal failure?

How have you seen God **redeem and use** others' personal failings to minister to you?

How have you seen God redeem and use **your own** personal failings to minister **to others**?

Creating "God Space": "God Space" is where cynics, skeptics, and spiritually curious people can **safely** raise their questions, reservations, and doubts because we have listened well and demonstrated love in **practical, authentic** ways.

- Think of a friend or family member who might wish that they could have a second chance in life.
- What mistaken understandings might they have regarding God and his grace?
- Have you ever told them about when God gave **you** a second chance? Why or why not?
- Pray for them. Practice telling your "second chance story". Then, make plans to get together.

- As a group, worship the God of second chances.

Application-Challenge

- No matter how far you have strayed from God's will, he stands ready to forgive and re-commission you.
- Allow God to minister **to** you so that he can minister **through** you. Draw near to him and he will draw near to you.
- Recognize that no one is so far from God that he can't reach them. Our responsibility is to share the message. It is God's responsibility to save.



Sermon Summary (Key Text: Jonah 3)

Today we arrive at chapter three of Jonah. It's been called "***the gospel of the second chance***". Of course, there's no second chance for eternal salvation (Hebrews 9:27 and 2 Corinthians 6:2), but God does give us a second chance as far as our service to him is concerned—and that's what we see in Jonah 3:1–2. There are many examples of second chances in the Bible. Let me just cite three.

Exhibit A: David Psalms 23, 32 and 51 were written after his adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah. In spite of these sins, David was "a man after God's own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22) because he was as good at repenting as he was at sinning (2 Samuel 12).

Exhibit B: Peter Three times after Peter denied that he even knew Jesus (Luke 22:31-32), he went on to lead the early church and write two books of the New Testament.

Exhibit C: John Mark John Mark abandoned Paul on his first missionary journey, and so when Paul got ready to go on his second missionary journey, Paul refused to take him, even though Barnabas wanted to. Later, John Mark grew into a helpful partner in ministry (2 Timothy 4:11). And God chose him to write one of the Gospels!

Church, God is all about second chances! He will forgive any sin. But that is no guarantee that one will escape the consequences of his or her sin—just ask Moses (Numbers 20:9-12) and Abraham (Genesis 16:1-3; 21:9-12). All of us have made unwise choices for which we would be deeply ashamed for others to know about. The bad news is, God already knows. But the good news is that he is a God of second chances!

Jonah chapter 3 reveals that God loves to use broken people who have failed. God commissioned Jonah twice. The two commissions are nearly identical, but the outcomes are opposites. Jonah's first commission begins with disobedience and ends with obedience (1:2), but his second commission begins with obedience and it ends with disobedience (3:1-2). The one key difference is that Jonah's second commission tells him precisely what he is to say—nothing more, nothing less. Here at TCC, we're committed to exactly that: saying what God says. Many churches have abandoned biblical morality and accommodated themselves to our culture. This is especially true when it relates to sexuality and gender. Satan wants us to believe that we don't need a Savior, because we are not sinners—we're just "mistakers". Our job is to speak God's message; it's not our concern whether people accept it (Ezekiel 2:7-8). Let God work in you, and then he'll work through you.

Jonah's response to God's re-commissioning couldn't have been more different (compare 1:3 to 3:1-3). Disobedience has been transformed into obedience. As Jonah walked through this great city, he delivered his brief but terrifying message, over and over again (v. 4), and just look at the results—a citywide revival, from the king on down (v. 5-10)! Salvation is a miracle—impossible for men to accomplish, but not for God (Matthew 19:26). God responds to the repentant heart; this was perhaps the greatest revival of all time. God has abundant mercy; he only asks that we repent of our sin and trust him to save us (James 4:8; John 1:12).

Talking To Others About This Week's Message

If a neighbor or friend at work asks you, "*What kind of stuff do they talk about at your church?*", how would you summarize the most important elements of this week's sermon and the key lessons you intend to apply to your life? Can you explain it in **plain language** anyone could understand?

Talking To God About This Week's Message

"Heavenly Father, today I want to be a 'doer' of the Word, and not just a 'hearer'. Amen."

MEN! THE WAIT IS OVER!



PointMan Breakfast at the fire pit!

- Saturday, March 13
- 9⁰⁰-10³⁰am
- Just \$10
- Bring a camp chair
- Chick-fil-a breakfast (gluten free option available)
- To register: tcc.org



Keyword: **PointMan**

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) *is a simple way to study any passage.*
We can use it to get to know "the God of second chances"...

Monday—Read Luke 22:31–34. Outline and summarize this interaction. Where is hope in it?

Tuesday—Read Matthew 16:13–23. Outline and summarize this interaction. Where is hope in it?

Wednesday—Read Matthew 14:22–33. Outline and summarize this interaction. Where is hope in it?

Thursday—Read Galatians 2:11–14. Outline and summarize this interaction. Where is hope in it?

Friday—Read John 21:15–17. Outline and summarize this interaction. Where is hope in it?

Saturday—***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord with your church family,***
read **Jonah chapter 4.**

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]