

WHAT MOVES THE HEART OF GOD? JONAH 3:4-10

God's original plan: *"Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, 'Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown.'" Jonah 3:4*

God's new plan: *"...then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it." Jonah 3:10*

What changes God's plans?

When we experience authentic belief in God. Jonah 3:5

"Then the people of Nineveh believed in God"

- Belief that is based on the Word of God. Jonah 3:4; Romans 10:14-17
- Belief in the saving work of God. John 3:16, 17; Jonah 3:9
- Belief in the coming judgment of God. John 3:18

When our belief is reflected in true repentance to God. Jonah 3:5-8

- Your heart experiences sorrow for your sins. *"put on sackcloth."* Jonah 4:5; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10; Psalm 32
- Humbly put aside any claim on your position and power. *"laid aside his robe"* Jonah 4:6
- Place your possessions in submission to God. *"beast must be covered with sackcloth."* Jonah 4:8
- Your behavior turns away from your sin. *"...and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands."* Jonah 3:8; Acts 26:20

God did, and will, "relent" from judgment. Jonah 3:10

"When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it."

Relent = to breathe deeply, to have sorrow, compassion, or comfort.

- God will extend grace to escape His judgment. *"forty days"* Jonah 3:4
- We are called to share the good news of Jesus' salvation. *Who will you share the gospel with?*

Remember, no one is too sinful to receive (Nineveh) or too good to need (Jonah) God's saving work.

Who do you know that needs this saving work? Do you still think they are too far gone to be saved?

- *Remember Nineveh and share the Word. You never know who God has prepared for the good news of Jesus Christ.*
- *Remember Jonah, a prophet, had sins of the heart that needed forgiveness. How about you? Never doubt the grace of God for those hidden sins.*

Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

Reflect on this contrast below of the rebellious sinner in Jonah and the repentant sinners in Nineveh. Which of them needed God's grace more? Why? Who do you know that needs God's saving work?

Jonah the rebellious sinner

vs.

Nineveh the repentant sinners

He knew the truth and willfully disobeyed.

He suffered consequences unnecessarily

He needed two opportunities to respond

He knew he was wrong but kept running from God

His sinful rebellion almost destroyed others

They learned the truth and immediately obeyed.

They avoided suffering consequences

They responded immediately

They knew they were wrong and ran to God.

Their repentance saved a city

Read Romans 10:8-17. What are we to believe to be saved? What is our responsibility to others so they can be saved? What makes you hesitant to tell others this truth?

Next Steps:

PLACE YOUR FAITH IN JESUS: The Bible tells us the good news in Romans 10:9, *"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."* Come forward at the end of the service to pray with someone, or use The Card in the seat back to let us know of your decision today. Discover more about the grace and new life we find through Jesus at calvarylife.org/jesus

GROW IN COMMUNITY: The Bible encourages Jesus-followers to be planted, rooted, growing, maturing, and able to withstand the pressures of the world. At Calvary, we believe this happens best in community. So, take a next step today and explore ways to deepen and grow in your faith by joining a Group or attending a Gathering. Pick up the new Fall 2019 Groups & Gatherings guide in the Lobby or visit calvarylife.org/grow

In Response:

PRAYER POINTS: These spots at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have people available to pray with you during the time of singing after the sermon and after the service. They are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.