

“Rend Your Heart!”
Jonah 3:6-9

Introduction:

1. This Morning:
 - Let's Head Back To Our Study Through The Book Of Jonah!
 - Jonah 3 Is Where We Left Off!
 - And Where We Find Jonah:
 - Finally Obeying The Voice Of The Lord!
 - After God Came To Him That Second Time!
 - And Giving Jonah That Second Opportunity:
 - To Serve Him!
 - This Shows Us How Gracious God Really Is:
 - To His People! To You & To Me!
 - Even Though You May Sin & You May Fall:
 - Yet, God Remains Faithful To You, If You Belong To Him!
 - And The Lord Still Has A Plan For You Yet!
 - As He Did For Jonah!
2. And When Jonah Finally Obeyed:
 - Remember What The Lord Did:
 - Through Jonah?
 - 3:1-5 - “And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey. And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them!”
 - A Great Awakening Took Place!
 - Even In That Great City Of Nineveh!
 - The City That Was Great:
 - For All The Wrong Reasons!
 - Yet God Got Their Attention!
 - And They Turned To The Lord!
 - In Real Faith & In True Repentance!
 - And Were Saved!
3. And What We Read In Verse 5 Is Basically A Summary:
 - Of What The Next 4 Verses:
 - Describe More Fully!
 - The Repentance Of The People Of Nineveh!
 - And In These Verses:
 - We Will See How Much God Had Gotten A Hold Of Them!
 - 3:6-9 - “For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. / 7 And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: / 8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. / 9 Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?”
 - In These 4 Verses:
 - We See The Kind Of Repentance That Took Place In Nineveh That Day!
 - And Through The Example Of The Ninevites:
 - We Will See The Kind Of Repentance That Should Be In All Of Our Lives:
 - As The People Of God As Well!
4. And The Question I Want Us All To Consider This Morning Is This:
 - ***How Much Of You:***
 - ***Does The Lord Have?***
 - ***Does He Have All Of You?***
 - This Is What Real Repentance Is!
 - When You Give Yourself Up Completely:

- To The Lord!
- And This Is Exactly What We See:
 - Taking Place In Nineveh:
 - When The People Heard God's Message To Them Through His Prophet, Jonah!
- **How Much Does The Lord Have:**
 - **Of You?**

1. Does The Lord Have All Of Your Heart?

- How Can You Know This? How Can You Tell?
 - Ask Yourself This Question:
 - How Does The Word Of God Affect You?
 - Does The Word Of God Affect You:
 - Like It Affected The King Of Nineveh In 3:6?
- 3:6 - "For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes!"
 - We See In This Verse That:
 - "Word Came Unto The King!"
 - What Word?
 - The Same Word That Jonah Had Been Preaching Throughout The City Of Nineveh That Day!
 - It Was The Word Of God!
 - But When The "Word" Of God's Warning Finally Reached The King:
 - How Did He React?
 - He Did Not React The Way You Would Expect!
 - In Pride & In Pretension!
 - "Why Wasn't I Told First?"
 - Especially With Such An Important Matter Affecting His Nation!
 - No - He Responded To The Word:
 - In The Right Way!
 - He Responded To God's Word:
 - In This Way:
 - With A Quick Response To God's Word!
 - "He Arose!"
 - Compare The Kings Response To The Response Of Jonah In Chapter 1:2-3 & Then In 3:2-3!
 - For Jonah - It Took Time For Him To Respond!
 - For The King Of Nineveh - It Took No Time For Him To Respond!
 - How Much Time Does It Take For You:
 - To Respond To The Word Of God?
 - The King Of Nineveh Also Responded:
 - With A Fearful Response To God's Word!
 - "He Laid His Robe From Him!"
 - This Was His Kingly Robe!
 - Often Used To Impress His Subjects As Well As Other Heads Of State!
 - We Don't Know Who Was There With Him:
 - In His Throne Room At This Time!
 - But It Didn't Matter To Him!
 - Because God's Word Had Gotten A Hold Of His Heart!
 - He Had A Greater Fear Of God:
 - Than Of Man! And What Did He Do? Responded:
 - With A Humble Response To God's Word!
 - He: "Covered Him With Sackcloth, And Sat In Ashes!"
 - He Put On The Garments Of Sorrow & Repentance!
 - He Was The King Of Nineveh:
 - But Now He Identified Himself With Even The Lowest Class Of His Subjects!
 - When God Has Your Heart:
 - This Too Is How You Will Respond:
 - To The Word Of God!
 - When Read / Taught / Preached!
 - And Whenever God Speaks:

- It Demands A Response From You!
- When God Has Your Heart:
 - You Will Respond To His Word:
 - Quickly & Fearfully & Humbly As Well!
- How Much Of Your Heart Does God Have?
 - Does He Have It All?
 - This Is The Evidence Of True Repentance!

2. ***Does The Lord Have All Of Your Life?***

- How Can You Know This? How Can You Tell?
 - Ask Yourself This Question:
 - How Extensive Is God's Control Over You & Your Life?
 - Is It Like What Happened In Nineveh?
 - When God Got A Hold Of Nineveh:
 - It Was Complete & Universal!
 - They "Surrendered All" To The Lord!
 - See This In:
 - 3:7-8a - "And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth!"
 - The King Of Nineveh:
 - "Proclaimed & Published" A "Decree!"
 - And This Decree:
 - Was To Ensure That The Message Of God Got Out To Everyone!
 - The King Of Nineveh Was Basically Helping Jonah Out With His Own Ministry!
 - But He Was Also Ensuring That Their Response To God's Word Was Complete!
 - Look At How Far God's Message Reached:
 - As Well As Their Response!
 - God's Message Reached High!
 - Even To The King Himself!
 - And His Nobles!
 - And They All Responded To God's Word:
 - In Repentance!
 - God's Message Reached Wide!
 - To All Of The People Of Nineveh!
 - And Even To The Beasts / The Animals That Belonged To Them!
 - And They All Responded To God's Word:
 - In Repentance!
 - God's Message Reached Broadly!
 - All Of The People Were To Respond:
 - By Fasting From Food & Water!
 - And Including All Of Their Animals As Well!
 - Everyone & Everything:
 - Was Yielded To The Lord Completely!
 - And To His Control & Authority!
 - It Was To Be Comprehensive!
 - And When God Truly Has You – He Will Have Your Life As Well!
 - This Is How Much He Will Have:
 - He Will Have All Of It!
 - He Will Be In Control Of All Of Your Life!
 - Have You Surrendered All:
 - To The Lord? This Is What It Takes!
 - Or Is There Something Left In Your Life:
 - That You Haven't Surrendered?
 - Some Sin / Habit / Grudge?
 - How Much Of Your Life Does God Have?
 - Does He Have It All?
 - This Is The Evidence Of True Repentance!

- And As The Lord Identifies Something Else In Your Life:
 - Surrender It / Yield It To Him Right Away!

3. ***Does The Lord have All Of Your Dependence?***

- Do You Really Depend On The Lord:
 - As The Source, Support & End Of Your Life?
- How Can You Know This? How Can You Tell?
 - Ask Yourself This Question:
 - How Prayerful Are You To The Lord?
 - Do You Realize That:
 - Prayerlessness Is A Sign Of Self-Reliance & Independence From The Lord!
 - When You Don't Pray:
 - You Are Showing That You Really Don't Need God In Your Life!
- Why Are Prayer Meetings So Sparsely Attended?
 - Why Are Prayer Closets Sitting So Empty?
 - And Why Are Answers To Prayer So Uncommon?
 - Because We Have Not Truly Nor Completely Turned From Ourselves & Unto The Lord In Repentance & Complete Dependence!
 - Look At The Sudden Change:
 - That Took Place In Nineveh In:
 - 3:8b - When The King Told His People To "Cry Mightily Unto God!"
 - The Ninevites Were To:
 - Pray Purposefully!
 - They Were To "Cry!"
 - Not Just Words From Their Lips!
 - But From Their Hearts!
 - As David Did In Psalm 61:2 - "From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I!"
 - They Were Also To:
 - Pray Passionately!
 - They Were To "Cry Mightily!"
 - With Fervency!
 - And They Were Also To:
 - Pray Properly!
 - They Were To "Cry Mightily Unto God!"
 - The One True God! Not Their False Gods!
 - And This ***IS*** How They Prayed!
 - And When God Truly Has You:
 - This Is How You Will Pray Too!
 - With A Purpose!
 - With A Passion!
 - Unto The Lord Your God!
 - How Much Of Your Dependence Does God Have?
 - Does He Have It All?
 - If You Really Are Depending On The Lord:
 - As The Source, Support & End Of Your Life!
 - You Will Pray!
 - And You Will Even "Pray Without Ceasing!"
 - This Is The Evidence Of True Repentance!

4. ***Does The Lord Have All Of Your Will?***

- How Can You Know This? How Can You Tell?
 - Well - How Do You Live? And How Do You Act?
 - Have Your Actions Changed?
 - From Pleasing Yourself To Pleasing The Lord?
 - Look At How God's Word Changed Both The:
 - Will & The Actions Of The Ninevites In:
 - 3:8c - Still Part Of The King's Proclamation & Decree - "Yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from

the violence that is in their hands!”

- They Were To:
 - “Turn” From Their Sinful Will & Actions!
 - And They Did!
- There Was A:
- Turn From Their Sins In Private!
 - “Let Them Turn Every One From His Evil Way!”
 - Their Own, Personal Wicked & Sinful Path Of Life!
 - Their Personal Desires & Lusts:
 - Were To Be Changed!
 - Because Now They Knew:
 - That Nothing Could Be Hidden From The Knowledge Of God!
 - There Was Also To Be A:
- Turn From Their Sins In Public!
 - “From The Violence That Is In Their Hands!”
 - And Their “Violence”:
 - Was Well Known To The People In That Time!
 - The Assyrians Were:
 - Ruthless & Cruel!
- But God Was Able To Change Even Them!
 - And They “Turned!”
 - They “Turned” – By God’s Grace – From Their Own Darkness To God’s Light!
- And When God Has Your Will:
 - This Too Is How You Will Change!
 - You Too Will Turn!
 - Not Just From Your Public Sins!
 - But Even / Especially From Your Private Sins!
 - Because Now You Know That:
 - You Cannot Hide Anything From The Knowledge Of God!
 - And The Will & Pleasure Of God:
 - Will Become More & More Your Own Will & Pleasure & Desire!
 - There Will Be A Continual:
 - Change & Turning!
- How Much Of Your Will Does The Lord Have?
 - Does He Have It All?
 - This Is The Evidence Of True Repentance!

5. *Does The Lord Have All Of Your Trust?*

- How Can You Know This? How Can You Tell?
 - Ask Yourself This Question:
 - Is Your Trust In The Lord Unconditional?
 - Look At The Trust & The Faith:
 - Of The King Of Nineveh In:
- 3:9 - “Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?”
 - When We Read This Verse, We See That:
- The Strength Of Their Trust:
 - Was Not Very Great! Not Very Strong At All!
 - In Fact, Their Faith Seems Very, Very Small!
 - See - There Was No Promise Given To Them:
 - That God Would Be Merciful To Them!
 - No - There Was Just A 40 Day Gap In Time:
 - From God’s Message Of Warning To The Time Of Judgment!
 - But With Every Passing Day:
 - There Would Have Been A Growing Knowledge Of The Character Of Jonah’s God!
 - They Would See Daily More & More Of:
 - God’s Patience & Longsuffering!
 - Toward Them In Their Sin!
 - And Even God’s Faithfulness:

- To His Own Word!
- And So The King Thought:
 - “Perhaps, Maybe, There’s A Chance That Jonah’s God Might: “Turn And Repent, And Turn Away From His Fierce Anger!”
 - The King Was Wavering “Between Hope And Fear!” (Gill)
- But It Was Not The Size & Strength:
 - Of Their Faith & Trust That Would Save Them!
 - It Never Is!
 - It Would Be The Object:
 - Of Their Faith & Trust That Would Save Them!
 - The Faith & Trust:
 - Of The King & Of All The People!
 - Was In God & In His Word!
- We May Not See A Very Strong Faith In This Verse:
 - But What We Do See Is:
- The Submission Of Their Trust!
 - Submission Is What Trust Really Is!
 - The Ninevites Did Not Know:
 - If God Would Chose To “Turn Away From His Fierce Anger!”
 - But They Still Repented From Their Sin:
 - And Turned To The Lord In Faith!
 - Their Trust In God:
 - Was Unconditional!
 - They Did Not Base Their Response To God On Any Conditions!
 - They Were Even Willing To Suffer The Consequence & The Judgment For Their Disobedience & Sin!
 - Much Like Job:
 - In Job 13:15 - “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him!”
 - His Trust In God Was Unconditional!
- And When God Has Your Trust:
 - It Will Be Unconditional As Well!
 - Come What May:
 - Your Hope & Your Trust Is In Your Sovereign God!
 - And In His Purpose & Will For Your Life & Even Your Circumstances!
 - And Even If Your Perishing:
 - Glorifies God!
 - Then So Be It! **IE:** Like Many Martyrs!
- How Much Of Your Trust Does God Have?
 - Does He Have All Of Your Trust?
 - Is It Unconditional?
 - Or Is It Conditional?
 - “If You Will Do This For Me, God – Then I Will Do This For You! Or Be This Way For You!”
- Real Trust:
 - Is Unconditional!
 - It May Be Weak! It Is Always Weak!
 - We Will Always Have To Pray For More Faith - “Lord, I Believe! Help Thou Mine Unbelief!”
- But This Is Real Trust!
 - And Is The Evidence Of True Repentance!

Conclusion:

1. How Much Does The Lord Have – Of You?
 - How Much Does He Have:
 - Of Your Heart?
 - Of Your Life?
 - Of Your Dependence?
 - Of Your Will?
 - Of Your Trust?

2. If He Doesn't Have All Of You:
 - Then Go To The Lord Today!
 - And Confess That To Him!
 - And Repent From Your Own Way & Turn To Him And His Way!
 - And Then - Through The Lord Jesus:
 - Receive What You Lack From Him!
3. For This Kind Of:
 - Heart & Life & Dependence & Will & Trust:
 - Can Only Come From Having The Lord Jesus Christ In Your Life!
 - Jesus Gave His All For You:
 - So That God Can Receive Your All Through Him!
4. So - If God Doesn't Have All Of You Today:
 - Then:
 - "Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness!" (Joel 2:13)
 - And The Fruit Of Repentance Will Be Seen In Your Life!
 - Just Like It Was Seen In Nineveh:
 - That "Great City!"

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