

***“The Result Of Repentance”***  
***Jonah 3:9-10***

**Introduction:**

1. Please Turn Back With Me In Your Bibles To:
  - The Book Of Jonah!
    - Where We Will Finish Looking At The 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter This Morning!
  - Jonah Chapter 3:
    - Is Where We See A Whole Lot Of Change Taking Place!
      - **IE:** Often During This Time Of Year, We Think About All The Change That We Have Seen Throughout The Year! As We Get Closer To The New Year, You Can Watch Shows Or Read Articles That Will Remind You Of All The Change That Has Taken Place! Much Of It Is Change For The Worse!
    - But That Year - In Nineveh:
      - It Was Good Change That Was Taking Place!
        - Change For The Better!
        - For God Was Getting A Hold Of Some Hearts!
    - There Was Change In The Heart Of His Prophet:
      - Jonah!
        - As He Finally Obeyed The Lord When He Was Given That Second Opportunity!
    - There Was Change In The Heart Of The King Of Nineveh:
      - When He Heard God’s Warning Of Judgment!
      - And He Realized That He And His Nation Had Sinned Against The God Of Heaven!
    - And There Was Change In The Hearts Of The Whole City:
      - Of Nineveh!
        - As They Heard The Message Of Jonah Themselves!
      - And They Believed The Lord!
      - And Repented Of Their Sins Against Him!
    - And All That Was Good Change!
      - It Was One Of The Greatest Spiritual Awakenings:
        - In The History Of The World!
          - It Would Have Certainly Made The News Even Today!
      - What A Year In Review They Would Have Had:
        - For That Year In Nineveh!
2. When We Last Saw The People Of Nineveh:
  - Their Repentance Was Complete!
    - In 3:6-8!
    - They Even Caused Their Animals To Fast:
      - And Eat No Food & Drink No Water!
      - Along With Them!
    - Their Repentance Was True & Complete!
  - Even Though Their Faith Was Small!
    - In 3:9 - Where The King Of Nineveh Himself Said:
      - “Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?”
    - “Who Can Tell?”
      - The Ninevites Did Not Really Know:
        - The God Of Jonah!
        - They Did Not Really Know:
          - About Him & His Character!
      - Perhaps They Had Heard About:
        - God’s Judgment On Other Nations!
        - And Were Expecting Similar Results!
      - “Who Can Tell?”
        - The King Asked!
    - But Even Though Their Faith:
      - Was Small & Mixed With Doubt:
        - As To What The Lord Would Finally Do With Them!

- Yet They Still Expressed Some Hope!
- And They Still Expressed Concern For Their Own Souls!
- And This Too:
  - Is An Evidence Of True Repentance!
  - A Concern For Your Own Soul!
- So Let's Look More Closely Again:
  - At 3:9 - Where We See:

**1. *A Great Concern From A Repentant Heart!***

- 3:9 - "Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?"
  - When The People Of Nineveh Were Awakened:
    - To Their Sinful Condition Against The Lord!
  - They Also Became Concerned:
    - About The Future Of Their Souls!
  - And We See This Concern:
    - In The Question In This Verse!
  - There Was Concern:
- For God's Apparent Plan!
  - For Them!
    - A Plan To Warn Them!
  - "Who Can Tell If God Will Turn?"
    - They Asked!
    - To "Turn Back" From The Plan That He Was Warning Them About In 3:4 - "Yet Forty Days, And Nineveh Shall Be Overthrown!"
  - Now If God Sent His Prophet All The Way From Israel:
    - To Nineveh With This Message Of Warning!
      - It Must Be Serious!
      - And It Was!
    - Sin Is Serious!
      - And So Is Judgment For Sin!
  - And The People Of Nineveh:
    - Were Wondering If God Had Reached:
      - That "Point Of No Return" On His March To Overthrow Them!
  - How Many Are Concerned About:
    - God's Plan To Warn Them?
    - When Jesus Came To Earth 2,000 Years Ago:
      - As A Little Baby!
        - There Was A Warning In That Birth, As Well As Hope!
  - For If God Sent His Own Son All The Way From Heaven:
    - To Earth With A Message Of Salvation!
      - Then It Must Be Serious!
      - And It Was! And Is!
      - God Is Serious About Sin!
      - For God Is Holy!
    - And At This Time Of Year Especially:
      - People Hear About This All The Time!
      - Christmas Carols!
      - But Is There Any Concern:
        - For Their Own Souls?
  - Concern About God's Warning:
    - Is An Evidence Of True Repentance!
    - There Was Also Concern:
- For God's Apparent Purpose!
  - For Them!
    - The Purpose To Judge Them!
  - The King Asked - "Who Can Tell If God Will Turn And Repent?"
    - To "Repent" & To Have Compassion On Them!
    - And To Relent From His Purpose Of Judgment!

- This Is What God Must Do:
  - With Sin!
    - Because He Is Holy & Righteous, He Must Judge Sin!
- And The People Of Nineveh Realized This Now!
  - And Were Concerned For Their Souls!
    - And This Concern Was Good!
- Yet How Many People Are Concerned About:
  - God's Purpose To Judge Their Sin?
  - Always In The Shadow Of The Manger:
    - In Which Jesus Was Born!
    - Is The Cross:
      - On Which He Would Die!
  - Jesus Himself Was:
    - "Born To Die On Calvary!"
    - But Not In Judgment For His Sin!
      - But For Our Sin!
  - The Whole Life & Ministry Of Jesus:
    - Leads To & Points To His Death!
      - And His Sacrifice For Sin!
    - And Many People Know This:
      - About Jesus!
  - But Is There Any Concern:
    - For Their Own Souls?
- Concern For God's Judgment:
  - Is An Evidence Of True Repentance!
  - There Was Also Concern:
- For God's Apparent Passion!
  - Against Them!
    - A Passion Of Anger!
  - The King Again Asked - "Who Can Tell If God Will Turn And Repent, And Turn Away From His Fierce Anger?"
    - Psalm 7:11 - "God Is Angry With The Wicked Every Day!"
      - There Is A Righteous Anger With God:
        - Toward Sin & Sinners!
  - And The Ninevites:
    - Understood This Now!
    - They Realized That:
      - God Had Every Reason & Right To Be Angry With Them!
      - Because Of Their Rebellion & Sin Against Him!
        - And They Were Appropriately Concerned About His Anger!
  - But How Many People Are Concerned About:
    - God's Anger Toward Them & Their Sin?
  - If Someone Does Not Repent & Believe:
    - Listen To What Jesus Himself Says About Them - In John 3:36 - "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him!"
  - Concern About God's Anger:
    - Is An Evidence Of True Repentance!
    - And There Was Also Concern:
- For God's Apparent Punishment!
  - Of Them!
    - The Punishment Of Destruction!
  - 3:9 - "Who Can Tell If God Will Turn And Repent, And Turn Away From His Fierce Anger, That We Perish Not?"
    - To "Perish" Means To Die!
      - And To Be Exterminated!
      - **IE:** Like The Pests & Vermin We Don't Like In & Around Our Own Homes!
  - God Had Gotten Their Attention!

- And God Was About To Do To Them:
  - What They Had, No Doubt, Had Done To Other Nations!
- How May Are Concerned About:
  - God's Punishment For Sin?
    - Death & Destruction? Hell?
  - Instead Of Taking God At His Word:
    - Revelation 20:15 - "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire!"
  - They Try To Redefine Hell!
    - Or They Try To Ignore Hell!
      - But It Is Real!
- Yet - Concern About God's Punishment:
  - Is An Evidence Of True Repentance!
- And This Is What We See Going On In Nineveh!
  - A Change Of Heart!
  - Instead Of Being Hard & Calloused Against The Lord!
    - Now - They Were Concerned For Their Souls!
  - But Do You Realize That Those Who Are Unrepentant:
    - Care Very Little About These Matters?
  - They Don't Care About The Words Of Jesus In:
    - Matthew 16:26 - "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"
- But Concern For Your Own Soul:
  - Is An Evidence Of True Repentance!
  - And If You Have This Concern In Your Heart:
    - Then There Is Great News!
      - Just Like There Was For The People Of Nineveh That Day!
  - Because We See In The Last Verse Of Chapter 3:

## 2. ***A Great Compassion For The Repentant Heart!***

- God's Compassion! 3:10 - "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not!"
  - God Had Gotten A Hold Of Their Hearts!
    - And They Were Concerned!
      - And Turned To The Lord In Faith & Repentance!
  - And Now - They Had Gotten A Hold Of The Heart Of The Lord!
    - And He Was Compassionate!
      - And Turned Toward Them In His Love & In His Amazing Grace!
  - What We Learn In This Verse Is That:
- God Is Mindful!
  - Toward The Repentant Heart!
    - "And God Saw Their Works, That They Turned From Their Evil Way!" (3:10a)
      - Now - Of Course - God Knows Everything & Sees Everything Anyways!
        - He Is Omniscient!
      - But This Describes God's Particular Knowledge Of Them – And Of Us!
  - God Sees Your Conduct!
    - "God Saw Their Works!"
      - And He Sees All Of Our Works As Well!
    - There Was No Fooling God!
      - He Could Easily Spot A Phony!
    - But What Did God See In Their Works?
      - The Sincerity Of Their Hearts!
      - They Weren't Just Thinking:
        - About Turning To The Lord!
      - They Weren't Just Talking:
        - About Turning To The Lord!
      - They Were Acting:
        - On Their Repentance!

- They Were Real!
  - And God Saw That!
- God Sees Your Change!
  - And The Change Must Have Been Dramatic!
    - “That They Turned From Their Evil Way!”
  - Remember How The Lord Sees?
    - 1 Samuel 16:7 - “The Lord Seeth Not As Man Seeth; For Man Looketh On The Outward Appearance, But The Lord Looketh On The Heart!”
  - And When He Saw Their Heart:
    - It Was Changed & Transformed!
  - It Would Have Been A:
    - Sudden Change!
      - Nothing Gradual Here! Days!
    - Significant Change!
      - Not Just Private, But Public Change! Confession / Restitution!
- God Is Mindful – Of True Repentance!
- God Is Moved!
  - By The Repentant Heart!
    - “And God Repented Of The Evil, That He Had Said That He Would Do Unto Them!” (3:10b)
  - God Was Moved:
    - To Reveal His Compassion!
      - To The Ninevites!
      - **IE:** Often Think Of “Compassion” In Our Terms - Giving To The Needy - Why - Because We May Be In Need Someday!
        - This Is Not Why God Does This!
    - “God Repented!”
      - Not The Same Kind Of “Repentance” That We See In The People Of Nineveh!
    - When God Repents:
      - It Means That God Chooses To:
        - Relent From His Judgment!
        - And Instead, Show Compassion & Forgiveness!
      - Now - The Lord Did Not Have To Do This!
        - No Condition Or Promise Was Given To The Ninevites!
      - God Would Have Been Completely Just & Right To Overthrow Nineveh!
        - But He Chose Not To!
        - Which Was All Part Of His Plan To Begin With!
  - God Was Also Moved:
    - To Reveal His Character!
      - To The Ninevites!
    - “God Repented Of The Evil!”
      - Not The Same Kind Of “Evil” That We See In The People Of Nineveh!
    - This “Evil”:
      - Is The “Bad” Outcome That Would Have Come Upon Nineveh If They Did Not Turn From Their Sin & Unto The Lord!
    - But This Too Shows Us Something About God!
      - If God Had Judged Nineveh For Their Sin:
        - God Would Have Seen It As “Bad” As Well!
      - In Ezekiel 33:11, God Himself Says - “As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?”
        - God Performs His Work Of Judgment Soberly & Even Sorrowfully!
      - Because This Is The Character Of God!
        - John Gill - “Judgment Is His Strange Act!”
          - “He Does Not Do It With Delight Or Pleasure; He Delights In Mercy!”
  - God Is Moved – By True Repentance!
  - God Is Merciful!
    - To The Repentant Heart!
      - “And He Did It Not!” (3:10c)

- God Was Merciful!
- His Warning To The Ninevites:
  - Was Conditional After All!
  - In Jeremiah 18:7-8 - God Was Speaking To Israel, And Said - “ At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them!”
    - The Lord May Not Have Told This To The People Of Nineveh - But This Was A Standing Promise!
    - A Promise To Show Mercy!
    - And This Was All Part Of God’s Plan All Along!
  - God Is Merciful – To True Repentance!
    - Joel 2:13 - “And 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, and repenteth him of the evil!”
- Compassion From God:
  - Is The Result Of True Repentance!

**Conclusion:**

1. And This Is Great News!
  - Do You Have A:
    - Concern For Your Soul?
      - Like The Ninevites Had?
    - Concern For Your Soul:
      - Is Evidence Of A Heart Of Repentance & Faith:
        - In The Lord!
  - And Compassion For Your Soul:
    - Is What God Offers:
      - To Everyone Who Turns To Him!
  - God Is Mindful!
    - God Is Moved!
    - And God Is Merciful!
      - To Anyone Who Turns To The Lord Jesus For His Mercy & His Salvation!

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