**Jonah: God’s love for the world**

**Main Idea: Our repentance is met with God’s mercy (Prov. 28:13)**

**Jonah one:**

**Summary: Jonah is told to go to Nineveh due to their sin. Jonah simply goes to the seaport to go the opposite direction. The Assyrians (Ninevites) were a growing power and future enemy of Israel.**

**God causes a great storm on the sea because of Jonah which leads to him being thrown into the ocean when the men find out. A great fish “prepared by God” swallows him. He was in there for three days and three nights.**

* **We can’t run from God (1 Kings 8:27; 2 Chron. 6:18; Ps. 139:7-12).**
* **When we sin, God has a right to judge.**

**Jonah two:**

**Summary: Alive inside the fish, Jonah descends to the depths of the ocean where he cries out to the Lord who then delivers him. As a result, Jonah praises God for His mercy and deliverance from the sea and the fish. The chapter ends telling us that the fish “vomited” Jonah onto dry land.**

* **Can you imagine the sight and smell of someone inside of a fish for three days and nights? That would certainly encourage repentance!**
* **When we receive mercy, we should show mercy (James 2:12-13).**

**Jonah three:**

**Summary: Jonah now goes to Nineveh, a very large city the Bible describes as being a “three-day journey” in size. Jonah tells the people that the city will be destroyed in forty days. The King and the city repented. Then God decided to withhold the judgment on the city.**

* **Do we care about those we disagree with? Think of how God felt about Nineveh and their sin, yet He wanted to extend mercy.**
* **Jesus defines what Nineveh did as repentance (Mt. 12:41).**
* **Repentance involves getting right with God (3:8-10), more than just a change of mind.**
* **Repentance can prepare a heart to believe, like Cornelius (Acts 10).**
* **But, concerning what did they believe God? They believed in the coming judgment. There is no indication of faith unto righteousness.**
* **The coming of the Tribulation (Rapture and Kingdom) is delayed to give people a chance to repent and avoid temporal judgment (2 Pet. 3:9).**
  + **The Tribulation will mean the death of billions.**
  + **Once the Day of the Lord begins, it begins a set period of time that, together with the 1,000-year reign of Christ, will not end until the prophetic calendar is complete.**

**Jonah four:**

**Summary: Jonah is so upset that the Lord is merciful and doesn’t judge the city that he asks to die, apparently forgetting the fish. When God asks if he has good reason to be angry, Jonah ignores Him. This comes up later.**

**Jonah goes to sit and watch what might happen and is plagued by the heat of the sun. The Lord commands a plant to grow to give Jonah shade and he is comforted. Then God sends a worm to destroy the plant and Jonah gets so hot and angry, he again wants to die. When God asks Jonah if he has reason to be angry over the plant, Jonah says he was right to be angry “even to death”.**

**The book closes with an unanswered question about whether the Lord should be unconcerned that judgment on the city would result in 120,000 small children dying, in addition to many animals.**

* **God doesn’t want anyone to die, even those who deserve it (Ezek. 33:11)**
* **When we get upset, we get stupid.**
  + **Jonah wants God’s mercy, but not others who he doesn’t like**
  + **Jonah cared more about a plant dying than over 100,000 small children and animals. What had they done to deserve death?**
  + **Jonah felt he had a right to be angry because he was hot and God had shown mercy and had not killed young children and animals**
  + **When Jonah was angry, he wouldn’t even answer God, then the heat made it worse and…**
  + **Jonah said he had reason to be angry “even to death” …unless of course he was in a fish in the ocean**
* **We forget lessons God teaches us; the fish, the plant; what about Nineveh?**
* **They may deserve judgment, but what about us?**
* **God can accomplish His purposes, even when His servants are flawed; He can also be very persuasive.**
* **Those who have received mercy should show mercy (Jas. 2:13-13).**
* **Anyone who thinks it is loving or best for others to let people do whatever they want has never had children or is not a wise, caring parent. And, that’s especially true if you know everything and are morally perfect, like God.**
* **Repentance is a way to avoid the temporal judgment, or wrath, of God (Lk. 13:1-5)**