

III. GOD REPENTED MERCIFULLY

- A. The Ninevites turned to God and as a result they were spared from judgment.

“Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.”

Jonah 3:10

“let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

James 5:20

There are three acts of repentance in this chapter:

- Repentance of a saint (v 2).
- Repentance of a sinner (v 5).
- Repentance of the Sovereign (v 10).

God did not repent because he was wrong; He repented because the Ninevites were right.

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,..”

Psalm 33:12a

- B. God forgives revelation #3:

God will forgive you and withdraw His discipline.

“16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

John 3:16-17

“31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.”

I Corinthians 11:31-32

GO DEEPER WITH GOD THROUGH FORGIVENESS!!

GOING DEEPER

**How The Book Of Jonah Can Help Us Go Deeper With God
Deeper In Our Understanding Of God’s Forgiveness**

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INTRODUCTION

- A. You have heard it said, you can run, but you can’t hide! Let’s face it we’ve all tried to run from God. Jonah was a person who tried to run from God. Through this experience God lovingly responded by helping Jonah to understand His true nature. This understanding resulted in Jonah having a deeper relationship with God.

*“But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving;
I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.”*

Jonah 2:9

The book of Jonah is not primarily about a big fish, but rather about a big GOD! There are only forty eight verses in this book. The fish is mentioned three times and God is mentioned forty two times!

- B. Unbelief has attacked this book probably more than any other book of the Bible. Jesus validated that Jonah was a real person who experienced a real miracle that represented an Old Testament type of Jesus (Jonah 1:17; Matthew 12:40-41).

- C. Attend Going Deeper and go overboard and into the deep with God by understanding His true nature:

June 5 Deeper In Our Understanding Of
God’s Discipline

June 12 Deeper In Our Understanding Of
God’s Control

June 19 Deeper In Our Understanding Of
God’s Listening

TODAY Deeper In Our Understanding Of
God’s Forgiveness

July 3 Deeper In Our Understanding Of
God’s Care

- D. **TEXT:** Jonah 3:1-10

This passage shows Jonah preaching for God. It helps you to understand how God forgives.

HOW TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S FORGIVENESS

I. JONAH RESPONDED OBEDIENTLY

A. Once again God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and this time he said yes.

"1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,

2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you."

3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent.

4 And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" Jonah 3:1-4

"For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity." Proverbs 24:16

What made Nineveh "*an exceedingly great city*" (v3b)?

- Nineveh was a founded by Nimrod (Genesis 10:11-12).
- It was the center of the Assyrian Empire (II Kings 19:36; Isaiah 37:37).
- It was a metropolitan city, a three day journey from the front gate to the back gate (Jonah 3:3b).
- The Assyrians were notorious for their cruelty and idolatry (Nahum 3:19).

B. God forgives revelation #1:

God will forgive you and allow you a second chance to do His will.

"For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You."

Psalm 86:5

"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."

Galatians 6:1

II. THE NINEVITES REACTED DRAMATICALLY

A. A great revival took place in Nineveh.

"if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." II Chronicles 7:14

- The people reacted by believing.

"So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them." Jonah 3:5

- The king reacted by proclaiming.

"6 Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes.

7 And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying,

Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water.

8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.

9 Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?"

Jonah 3:6-9

B. God forgives revelation #2:

God will forgive you and use you to accomplish great things.

"20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.

21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."

II Timothy 2:20-21