

Jonah in One Sermon- Magdalen Road Church 1/1/2023

- 1a- God's Call
- 1b- Jonah's Rebellion
- 2- God's Grace
- 3- The Ninevites' Repentance
- 4- Jonah's Anger

Chapter 1

What was unusual about God's call to Jonah?
[what do we learn about Nineveh elsewhere? Jonah 3:3
Also Nahum 3:1,19

Woe to the city of blood,
full of lies,
full of plunder,
never without victims!

All who hear the news about you
clap their hands at your fall,
for who has not felt
your endless cruelty?

What truth did Jonah suppress, in Prov 15:3, also Ps 139:7-10, when he ran away from the LORD?

What storms is God sending to you, or society more generally, to alert you to your sin?

How is Jonah like Christ when he is thrown into the sea?

Chapter 2

"Those who go to other nationalities to tell them about God's grace need to have a deep personal experience of God's grace themselves" How can we deepen our joy at what God has done for us in Christ to rescue us?

How can we imitate Jonah's prayer?

Chapter 3

In what ways can we admire Jonah's boldness in Nineveh?
Do you feel ashamed of the Bible's message of judgment? Why is it a key part of our message?

Make sure you leave time to pray for our nation, that Britain would repent and turn to God.

Extra note on the Assyrian king's repentance:

When he says in v9 "**Who knows?** God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish." we know more than he did: God has proved his compassion to us. The Son of God hanging on a cross facing the fierce anger of God and crying out "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Who knows? We know- the cross is a sure pledge from God that his anger has been spent. The punishment has been paid. Now **we know we have eternal life**, to use the confident language of 1st John.

Chapter 4

Jonah is mentioned in one other OT book: 2 Kings ch 14:25, and there we read that Jonah prophesied about his nation Israel becoming great again.

Love of one's own country is a good and right thing, but how had Jonah's patriotism become something toxic, racist we might say?

How does God deal with Jonah so that he has to face up to his bitter and hostile spirit?

What is your leafy vine? Have you ever felt upset when God takes away some creature comfort of yours?

Jonah was very candid in sharing his shameful temper tantrum with us, but the end of Jonah 4 is a cliffhanger. How are we going to respond to God's challenge?

How can MRC corporately embrace the vision to love the nations, even those who are our enemies?