

CHASING JONAH

Session Three – JONAH'S UNFAITHFUL HEART

From Chapter One

God called His prophet Jonah to go to Nineveh to preach to them. Jonah not only refused, but fled toward Tarshish (in Spain) by ship. God used a storm, the pagan sailors, and a casting of lots to call upon Jonah, and by implication, Israel, to repent. Jonah exhibited a **"rebellious heart,"** but God chased Jonah with His mercy.

From Chapter Two

Jonah proved himself to be form over substance. He wrote a beautiful Psalm about his experience of nearly drowning and being swallowed by a great fish, but retained an **"unrepentant heart."** Jonah prayed for deliverance, but he blamed God and did not accept responsibility.

Preview of Ch. 3

Jonah gets a second chance, not only to obey God's call to Nineveh, but for restoration. His ministry there is a smashing success and revival ensues, but Jonah maintains an **"unfaithful heart."**

Studying Chapter Three

OPENING: A lifestyle practice of diligently engaging the Word of God is a road less traveled by. It is setting out on a faith-driven quest for a deeper knowledge of God. But what do we do when God's Word requires us to do a 180 or leave our comfort zone? We are confronted with the question, "Do I want to **change?**"

III. JONAH'S UNFAITHFUL HEART (CH. 3)

- a. Jonah heralds the destruction of Nineveh (3:1-4)
 - We see a God of second **chances**
 - If we are going to serve, we must **arise and go**
 - In a teaching ministry, the message must be "the preaching that I bid thee" (Ezek. 3:17-19)
 - Jonah GOES, but never repented
 - Sometimes God asks you to eat **lima beans!**
 - Our walk and worship should not be purely external, but flow from an obedient heart
 - Only a five-word message to Nineveh
- b. Every man, woman and beast repents and mourns the evil and violence of Nineveh (3:5-9)
 - People of Nineveh believed God
 - Inward reception AND outward **reflection**
 - A faithful response to minimal **revelation**
- c. God intervenes for Nineveh (3:10)
 - God changed course and did not destroy them
 - Never underestimate God's **Word** proclaimed

CLOSING: Don't be a **costume** Christian