



Jonah: A Nation Repents

Date: Sunday 19th July

Speaker: Aaron Smith

Key Verses: Jonah 3: 1-10

Talk Summary:

1. The Mercy to Jonah

- At the start of this passage, God gives Jonah a second chance. Recommissioning him to go to Nineveh without any mention of his past mistakes.
- God wants to give me and wants to give you a second chance.
- As I was preparing this I felt a nudge from the Holy Spirit that for some of you God is calling you back, he has a second chance for you to do the thing you turned away from.
- Maybe you felt inadequate or disqualified God wants to free you from the lie you have been living under

2. The Mercy to Nineveh

- Jonah did the bare minimum of obedience and delivered an 8 word message
- God can use the little we give him to achieve great things
- The whole nation, the king even the animals repent (Shuv)
- God also repents (shuv) of his anger and shows Nineveh mercy.
- Jonah is angry – He is more concerned with getting what he wants (the Nineveites destroyed) than God getting what he wats (a changed nation)

- Has God ever shown some one mercy hat you thought didn't deserve it?

3. The Mercy to Us

- Social justice without telling people about God's need for us to repent is not going to save. Likewise calling people to repent without demanding justice for the oppressed is not going to help people see the compassion and love that God offers.
- We want mercy for ourselves and justice for others.
- But judgment is necessary for change, it can be a loving thing to share your judgements with others.
- God not only points out where we are missing the mark, but gives us the way out too. As we shuv (repent), there God waiting to embrace us.
- God doesn't always protect us from the immediate consequences of our sin but he does from the eternal consequences.
- At the cross we see the justice and mercy of God.

Worship

- Why not start your time together with a centring prayer exercise, or some musical worship?
 - o More ideas at bvc.so/sgworship or bvc.so/sgprayer

Word

- God uses both Jonah's disobedience and his minimal obedience. How do you feel about that?
- Is there anything that you think God can't or shouldn't forgive? Do you think anyone deserves mercy?
- Is there anything in your life that you need to freshly bring to the cross and repent of? (this might be one to allow people to reflect on for themselves)

Witness

- Is there a hard conversation you are avoiding? Is there any one in your life that you think God might be inviting you to share a message of repentance with?

Prophetic words that were shared on Sunday:

You may want to share these with your group and see if any of them resonate with anyone. Then take time to pray for each other.

- A picture of THE church around the UK as mobile phone coverage over a map of the UK and a sense that we as Birmingham Vineyard are joining in with other churches around our country to cover the land in prayer and praise today. And even more so now we are spread out in our homes
- A picture of someone waving a white flag of surrender. Someone's had enough and they want to go with God and not on their own anymore.
- Someone had the word comfort. They felt that we are living in a difficult time at the moment and that God wants to give them comfort in his arms and to let them know it's ok they have to just let go and lean on Him

- Someone felt that some people were disconnected, or not wanting to be a part of community. They were reminded of Iron sharpening iron and there was an encouragement that even if its uncomfortable community with others and the holy spirit is necessary, don't shy away.
- Someone had a picture of a Christmas scene, God as the dad of the house, giving out presents in an order - there is much excitement, as each gift is patiently opened - everyone appreciates each other's gifts not just focussed on our own gifts – Lets do the same, encourage one another's gifts and call them out with excitement