



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Jonah: Learning Repentance
Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor
Scripture: Jonah 3:1-10

3 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ²“Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

³ Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. ⁴ Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” ⁵ The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

⁶ When Jonah’s warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

“By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸ But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

Sermon Outline:

Lent is a season where the church focuses on the themes and practices of fasting and repentance. The question for us is are we truly repenting, are we truly fasting? Lent is an opportunity every year to realign our hearts to move towards God and away from our belly.

When people hear the word “repent” it conjures up images or phrases telling us to clean up our dirty sins. To hear the word repentant is to hear this word through moralism and judgmentalism. Repentance is one of the most beautiful words in the scriptures, signifying God’s grace

To repent is to turn away from a life ruled by ourselves, to a life ruled by God.

Sometimes God needs to use the world to shake up the church. Sometimes God needs to get the world to get the church to pray.

The word of the Lord came to Jonah **a second time**. - Jonah 3:1

God is the God of second chances. He is the God who extends unending patience towards his people and doesn’t give up on his people. God doesn’t wait until we have our act together before he sends us.

Jonah arose this time and he goes to Nineveh, going in the right direction. Jonah message to them is only a few words and does not include any mention that God sent him to speak to them. Even though Jonah did not proclaim this was a message from God, the people of Nineveh listened to Jonah and repented.

Although Jonah does everything wrong, we continue to see how God works in mysterious ways.

The people of Nineveh believes that God's judgement of evil and violence was real, and they knew God's judgement was coming because of the violence He saw.

The violence that we see taking place around us is a violation against the character of God. God's judgment is coming to judge the world.

Jonah's repentance went deeper than his feelings.

Nineveh's repentance went deeper than their words.

Repentance is a lifelong journey and extremely hard work, which rarely ever feels good. Repentance is a realignment of our lives and confession leads to repentance.

There is no place too dark that God will not go and no place too hopeless that God can't save you.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor, continues our Lenten sermon series through the book of Jonah. Pastor Rich explores repentance and what it looks like in Jonah's life and how we are to live this out in our lives today.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, what types of examples of repentance did you experience with your family members? Maybe you didn't have this type of experience growing up. How does what you learned, or didn't learn, growing up influence the way you view repentance today? Journal your answers to these questions, offering them up to God and maybe sharing them in your small group.
3. How do you feel when you hear that a life governed by satisfying our appetites ultimately leads us to be spiritually famished? Spiritual growth requires us to do the hard thing of not being led by the world and culture. Where might you be able to stop satisfying your appetite so that you can begin growing in your spiritual life? Offer your responses up to God asking for his forgiveness, guidance, and wisdom in helping you to see where you need to grow in your spiritual maturity.
4. God is the God of second changes and unending patience with us. God doesn't wait until we have our act together before he sends us. Where have you seen God offer you second chances in your life or send you before you had your act together? Share your responses with your small group or a brother/sister in Christ.
5. Repentance is a lifelong journey, that we are to work on daily. What does living a life of repentance look for you right now? Does it mean you need to be more generous with your time or money, maybe you need to step back from engaging on social media or maybe it is time for you to confess to another person?