

SPRING QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017
THEME – SURVEYING THE MAGNITUDE OF GOD’S LOVE
UNIT III – THE EXTENT OF GOD’S LOVE

**“GOD’S LOVING GRACE IS IMMEASURABLE TOWARDS HIS CHILDREN AND HIS ENEMIES...THE JONAH STORY- PART III”
(THE PREACHING OF THE PREJUDICED PROPHET VS THE LOVE OF GOD)**



Repentance - Luke 24:46-47

A change of mind which leads to a change in behavior, resulting in a better course of life

*People of Nineveh
Jonah 3:1-10*

*David
Psalm 51:1-19*

For us Today
Luke 13:3, 5 - Acts 2:38 - Acts 3:19

Sunday School Lesson No. XII – May 21, 2017
Presented by Rev. Frank Davis, III Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Jonah 3:1-10

Required Reading: Jonah Chapters 1–4

Motto Texts: Jonah 3:10, *“And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.”*
II Peter 3:9, *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

Reliable Resources: Standard Lesson Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI); Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; The Runaway Prophet Jonah by David Jeremiah; Expository Outlines by Warren Wiersbe; Life Application Bible Notes; The Outline Bible by Dr. H. L. Willmington

INTRODUCTION

Beloved, we have come to the recommissioning of Jonah to preach to the people of Nineveh after God delivered him by way of the great fish! He had faced a great ordeal and now, even with a mind of prejudice, he was willing to obey God because in reality, he had no recourse but to obey God!

In the eyes of God, our personal prejudices are totally unacceptable when they go against His Sovereign plan. Peter’s words surely bring light to the love and grace of the Lord... *“Not willing that any should perish, but that all may come to repentance.”* (II Peter 3:9). Let us journey with Jonah as he begins to preach truth in spite of his personal prejudice.

Anticipated Power Points:

- **Jonah’s Prejudice Blinded Him to God’s Greatness. Jonah 3:1-4**
- **Jonah’s Prejudice Blinded Him to God’s Glory. Jonah 3:5-8**
- **Jonah’s Prejudice Blinded Him to God’s Loving Grace. Jonah 3:9-10**

THE LESSON OUTLINE

“GOD’S LOVING GRACE IS IMMEASURABLE TOWARDS HIS CHILDREN AND HIS ENEMIES...THE JONAH STORY- (PART II)” (THE PREACHING OF THE PREJUDICED PROPHET VS THE LOVE OF GOD)

I. Jonah’s Prejudice Blinded Him to God’s Greatness. Jonah 3:1-4

There had to be something great about Nineveh, the capital city of the Assyrians. “Why?” you ask. Because God sent His prophet to preach a word of final warning. Beloved, God knew what the final destination of the Ninevites would be, and about 150 years after Jonah’s prophecy to the great city, it fell to a coalition of the Babylonians, Medes, and Scythians in 612 BC. (Read verses 1-3).

A. Nineveh had a great geography of about 60 miles around, or a 3-days journey.

B. Nineveh had great walls about 100 ft. high, according to Feinberg in his book called “The Minor Prophets.” He also wrote that the walls were so broad, three chariots could ride abreast, and there were 1,500 watch towers on the top of these walls.

C. Nineveh had a great population of nearly one million people, and, according to Jonah 4:11, there were about 120,000 innocent souls who, we believe, were children whom God sought to save by His great grace.

D. Jonah preached an 8-word sermon (in English) that was great enough to save a city, if it would repent and believe: “Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!” (Just 8 simple words.) Beloved, how many great words of God’s loving grace do men and women, boys and girls, need to hear today?

II. Jonah’s Prejudice Blinded Him to God’s Glory. Jonah 3:5-8

One of the saddest things that can happen to a believer is to be so blinded by prejudice that they cannot see the grace and glory of God. This was Jonah’s mistake, but not the Ninevites...

A. They heard the prophet’s word and believed God.

Romans 10:17, “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”

B. They demonstrated their faith by their actions of fasting and humbling themselves and their households by putting on sackcloth, a type of uncomfortable burlap used to demonstrate total humility. And remember, this was done from the king to all subjects, and even the animals (vv. 5-8).

III. Jonah’s Prejudice Blinded Him to God’s Loving Grace. Jonah 3:9-10.

Reflecting on Jonah’s actions, he preached with compassion, he preached with faith. What a sad commentary for the man of God! Prejudice can blind the eyes of anyone, even the preacher/prophet, to God’s grace! Beloved, “*For by grace we are saved...It is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*” (Ephesians 2:8). God’s loving grace is beyond the mind of mankind. Remember what Peter taught, “*...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*” (II Peter 3:9)

As we leave Jonah until next week, let us not forget God’s Amazing Grace. It saved a wretch like me and you, “*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.*” Titus 3:5

CLOSING

Beloved, let us not get too close to the mirror unless we become over-focused on ourselves with myopic vision and fail to see what God is doing daily in and for the lives of others. Prejudice can cause great difficulties in what God’s loving grace is doing for others as well as for ourselves. Thank God, He is not like Jonah! Romans 5:6-8 is for us all, “*For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*” No prejudice but loving grace!

Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans & Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite City, LA

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179

Phone: (504) 486-7876

Website: www.thestudyhour.com

TV Broadcast: WHNO TV 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.



LOOKING AHEAD:

May 28, 2017

Jonah 4:1-11

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.