

Jonah: Repentance & Restoration

Introduction:

- A. A Familiar Story
 - 1. God calls Jonah to preach judgment upon Nineveh.
 - 2. Jonah refuses ... thrown overboard ... swallowed by fish ... repents/prays to God.
 - 3. God calls Jonah again ... he goes ... they repent.
 - 4. Jonah upset with God ... **we're left with a question and a cliffhanger ending. 4:11**
- B. A Not So Familiar Lesson
 - 1. It was not just a lesson of judgment and repentance ...
 - 2. It was to help believers (then and now) see the need to have a heart like God toward all.
 - 3. Only in this way can our **repentance** be truly linked to **restoration**.

Discussion:

- I. Repentance & Restoration **For Us**
 - A. Jonah: Not Unlike Certain Christians Today
 - 1. Our understanding of repentance may be limited to 'self.'
 - 2. We may know that God is merciful toward us. **Ch. 2**
 - 3. Some may even know of His mercy toward 'others.' **4:2**
 - 4. Too many, however, have an "us" verses "them" mentality
 - B. The Book was Written for Believers
 - 1. Jonah needed to learn to have a compassionate heart upon the lost. **4:9-11**
 - 2. This book was written with this lesson in mind.
 - 3. **The question and cliffhanger-like ending impresses this very point upon believers to ponder, reflect, judge ... and restore what is lacking.**
- II. Is Our Heart **Like God**?
 - A. Jonah vs. Pagans
 - 1. Jonah had more compassion on a plant than 120,000 precious souls, let alone animals. 4:10
 - 2. Even the sailors (**1:11-14**) and the king of Nineveh (**3:6-9**) had more compassion than Jonah.
 - B. What is Our Heart Like?
 - 1. Like Jonah?
 - 2. **Or, like God?**
 - a. God purposed that those who love Him be conformed to the image of His Son. **Rom. 8:29**
 - b. Those who are learn true repentance and are restored to our God.