

Throne Wars

A GOD OF SECOND CHANCES:

Jonah 3:1-10, 1 John 1:9, Romans 8:1

- God doesn't give up on us, we give up on Him.
- We can't outrun the Cross.
- Obedience when you don't feel like it, is still obedience.

THE ART OF SURRENDER:

Jonah 3:5-9, Hebrews 11:6, 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Philippians 2:9-11

- ▶ It starts with belief.
- ▶ The king got off his throne.
- ▶ They set aside their personal desires.
- ▶ They called out for mercy.

WE HAVE SOMETHING GREATER THAN JONAH:

Matthew 12:38-41

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 24, 2009

QUICK REVIEW - Looking back over your sermon notes, was there a particular point or passage of Scripture that challenged, confused or caught your attention?

MY STORY

1. God's call to Jonah to be a Godly influence to the Ninevites is a similar call to all Christians to impact our world for Christ. There's a variety of initial responses when people hear that Christians are to impact the world for Jesus. What are the first two things that come to mind when you hear this statement?

2. Chris talked about the importance of obeying even though we don't feel like it. Can you think of a time you went ahead and obeyed even though you had a bad attitude about it? If so, explain.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This week we saw how the mess the Ninevites found themselves in was cleaned up even though they didn't expect it. Most of us hope that life will get better once we surrender our life or an issue to God. How might the following verses help us deal with the messes that remain even after our repentance?

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." [NIV]

Hebrews 10:36-37

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. [37] For in just a very little while,

"He who is coming will come and will not delay. [NIV]

1 Peter 1:17-19

Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. [18] For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, [19] but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. [NIV]

2. The Ninevites took some radical steps when they surrendered to God – they fasted and wore sackcloth. Yet the key to their repentance was not these outward expressions, but rather a *change* in heart, action, and strategy on how to do life. What strategies and/or motivations does God give us to help us turn our emotion of remorse into true repentance?

2 Corinthians 7:10-13

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. [11] See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. [12] So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. [13] By all this we are encouraged.

In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you. [NIV]

Mark 8:34

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. [NIV]

2 Timothy 1:7

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. [NIV]

John 16:13

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. [NIV]

Can you think of any other verses or steps you have taken that helped you put feet to your repentance?

3. God wants to use His children to impact our world for Jesus. Most of us would welcome the opportunity to impact others for Christ, but find ourselves frustrated on how to effectively do this. What insight do the following verses give us to living out God's call in making a difference for Him?

Luke 11:33

"No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead he puts it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light. [NIV]

Colossians 1:10

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, [NIV]

Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. [13] Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. [14] And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. [NIV]

1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, [NIV]

TAKING IT HOME

Are there areas in your life you'd like prayer for to get off the throne and allow God to change you from the inside out?

Take a minute and talk to God about an opportunity for you to make an impact on a particular person or situation.

Prayer Requests

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