

July 31, 2016
Jonah 3:4-10

THE WORLDS GREATEST REVIVAL

I. Introduction: Our Need For Revival

“We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. **But we have forgotten God.** We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to God that made us. It behooves us, then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.” **(Abraham Lincoln’s National Day of Proclamation, April 1863)**

II. Four Steps To Revival From Jonah 3

A. There Must Be Faithful Proclamation and Faithful Hearing of God’s Word.

“Go to the great city of Nineveh **and proclaim to it the message I give you.**” Jonah 3:2

“Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned.”
Jonah 3:4

B. There Must Be A Belief In God

“**The Ninevites believed God.** They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.” Jonah 3:5

C. There Must Be Action Upon That Belief

“When the news 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 Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink.” Jonah 3:6-7

D. There must be a Turning Away From Know Sin.

What Is Repentance? Repentance is a change of mind which results in a change of heart which results in a change of action

“But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. **Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.**” Jonah 3:8

“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 had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.” Jonah 3:9-10

III. Conclusion and Application:

When the Word of God comes to you: Two Options

- 1.) Ignore it, pay no attention, reject it and face the consequences.
- 2.) Accept His Word, Believe God, and Turn from sin.

Which will you choose?

POINTS TO PONDER **Week of July 31st to August 6th** **God Of The Second Chances** **Jonah 3:1 to 4:11**

Open It

1. If you were offered a trip to the city of your choice anywhere in the world, what city would you choose? Why?
2. *When things don't go your way, how do you tend to respond?
3. What most easily moves you to compassion?

Explore It

4. What did Jonah tell the Ninevites? (3:4)
5. How did the people respond to Jonah's message? (3:5)

6. What did the king do? (3:6)
7. What did the king decree? (3:7-9)
8. What action did God take? (3:10)

Get It

9. When have you experienced a surprising, undeserved measure of God's mercy in your life?
10. Why do you think that fasting might be a useful part of repentance?
11. In your view, which culture, nation, or special interest group is undeserving of God's mercy?
12. *God was very gracious to Jonah, a pouting, reactive type. How does God deal with your prickly side?
13. How does the story of Jonah affect your view of cross-cultural ministry?
14. *Jonah wanted Nineveh, Israel's enemy, destroyed. When have you wanted revenge rather than restoration in a relationship?
15. What hard lesson have you had to learn from God?

Apply It

16. *What is one way you can extend God's love and mercy toward others, particularly those who don't deserve it?
17. How can you express thanks to the Lord this week for all the love and mercy He has given to you and others?