



Another Chance – Message 3

Announcements

SERVE Day 2018 // Saturday, July 14 // This week discuss with your group a project for SERVE Day this summer. Then register your project at Churchoftheking.com/serveday.

Warm-up

Jonah traveled by foot, camel, boat and Big Fish. What is your favorite mode of transportation: plane, train, automobile, bike or boat?

Word and Application

Over the last two weeks, we have explored key themes in the series of *Jonah and the God of Another Chance*. Jonah has taught us the lesson of what happens when we run from God and how God may use a timeout to draw us back into his will. During this third week, we dive into the character of a merciful God who gives us another chance.

Read Jonah 1:1-2 and Jonah 3:1-2. These scriptures reflect God's commands for Jonah both *before* Jonah's rebellion and *after* his repentance. God gives Jonah another chance to obey His will. What is the purpose of God's commands to Jonah? Describe the difference between Jonah's attitude and response immediately following these two passages.

Read Matthew 5:7.

It wasn't until Jonah understood what it meant to receive mercy, that he was willing to extend mercy to others. Why is it sometimes difficult for us to extend mercy to others? What does mercy look like in practise? Give an example of when you demonstrated mercy to someone)

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-19. What does this passage mean to you as a follower of Jesus? Share a situation or relationship where you can be used of God as a tool of reconciliation.

Read Jonah 3:3-10. What resonates most with you in these passages and why?

It's important to clarify what it means that "God relented" when the people repented. God didn't make a mistake and change his mind. Nor did the response from the Ninevites take God by surprise. In this incredible narrative, we see God's character of **divine judgment** and of **divine mercy**. Because of the gross wickedness of the people of Nineveh, God would bring his divine judgment. When the people responded with repentance to Jonah's words of judgment God chose to demonstrate His divine mercy. Our LORD is a God of another chance. Here are three keys to how we can be **People of Another Chance**.

Three Keys to Becoming "People of Another Chance"

1. Step Out in Faith.

Sometimes we don't always understand why God is demanding certain things of us; we can be confused, concerned, or conflicted. Despite these feelings, we are called to obey quickly. The deeper our relationship with the Lord, the more we learn to trust and obey Him. What barriers hinder you from obeying what God is speaking to you? What are some practical ways to overcome those obstacles?

2. Expect Good Fruit.

Read Jonah 3:5. Against all logic, this horrible city of Nineveh repented and worshipped the LORD God. Describe a time when you obeyed God even though it appeared contrary to what made sense? How did your obedience impact your walk with Christ? How did your obedience impact others?

3. Start With The Heart – Every Day.

Read Jonah 4:1. Why do you think Jonah responded this way after seeing the power of God's compassion and mercy at work? Read the below statement and explain what it means to you? How does this statement apply to Jonah?

We sometimes judge others by their actions, and ourselves by our intentions.

Read Psalm 139:23-24 and Lamentations 3:22-23. How can we prevent ourselves from falling into the trap of judging others?

Life Challenge

On a sheet of paper, write out the names of people whom you have been judging or withholding mercy. You may know immediately or you may need to ask God to search your heart in this area. Spend time in repentance before the Lord then make a conscious choice to release mercy and compassion to those individuals.

Prayer

Meditate on the divine mercy of God. Ask the Lord for greater understanding of His compassion and how to demonstrate it daily. Pray for specific needs of the group.