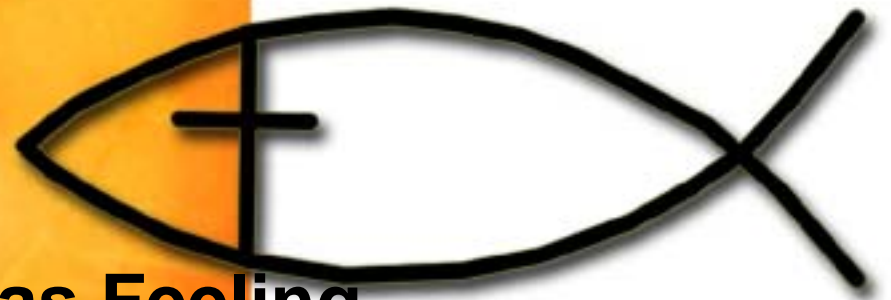




Finding Joy

Jonah 3



Series: Losing that Christmas Feeling

Jonah 3:1-10 (NKJV)

1 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying,

2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you."

Jonah 3:1-10 (NKJV)

3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey *in extent*.

4 And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

Jonah 3:1-10 (NKJV)

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

6 Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered *himself* with sackcloth and sat in ashes.

Jonah 3:1-10 (NKJV)

7 And he caused *it* to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water.

8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.

Jonah 3:1-10 (NKJV)

9 Who can tell *if* God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?

10 Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

1. We can Joy in our New Beginning

3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh

You don't have to read very far in your Bible to discover that God forgives His servants and restores them.

Even reluctant ones

2. We Can Have Joy in Sharing

2...and preach to it the message that I tell you."

We must proclaim God's Holy Word and His Word alone.

Jonah apparently walked the streets of the city preaching to reach as many of the citizens as possible.

The Ninevites fulfilled the two essentials or prerequisites necessary for any of us to be saved: faith in God was sincere and their repentance was true.

3. We Can Have Joy in God's Mercy

10 Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them

God's response to the Ninevites reveals His incomprehensible mercy

When the Lord saw the Ninevites place their faith in Him and repent of their sins, His heart was obviously filled with joy. This is clearly indicated by the fact that God had compassion on the Ninevites.

Christmas and Jonah *Christmas and Us*

God has always been merciful

**God has always provided access
to Him**

**God offers a new beginning in
Christ**