

Seeking God to Awaken the Lost 03-01-15

Exciting FCOG, Pastor Peter Smith

Welcome to Week 3

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

“Then the LORD spoke to Jonah a second time: “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you.”

This time Jonah obeyed the LORD’s command and went to Nineveh, a city so large that it took three days to see it all. On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: “Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!” The people of Nineveh believed God’s message, and from the greatest to the least, they declared a fast and put on burlap to show their sorrow.”

When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened.”

Jonah is a story of a man reluctant to go:

- He knew God is full of mercy and grace
- He didn’t like the people of Ninevah! “Let them get what they deserve!”
- He was afraid, skeptical, worn out, asleep...
- God sends a wake up call to Jonah in the belly of a HUGE fish!
- He finally goes, tells people to repent, and God saves a city!

Question today is this: How are we like Jonah?

- Before he followed God or after he became obedient?

Points:

1. Is it possible for God to awaken the lost? YES!

His desire is that all men / women will be saved...

“Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD
will be saved.” -Rom. 10:13

Remember your life before Jesus?

- Some lived bad lives and some lived good lives
But Jesus came and is making changes!
Is it possible that He can do this in someone else's life too? The answer is YES!

Video: Craig's Story

2. How does Spiritual Awakening begin?

Answer: With God and with Us!

God's part

- a. He desires it

"This is good and pleases God our Savior. He wants all people to be saved and to learn the truth." -1 Timothy 2:3-4

- b. He prepared the way

"Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'" -John 14:6

As the scripture says, "So then, 'Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'" -Rom. 10:13, GW

Our part

- a. To be like Jonah *after* the fish. To be willing to go!

"But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?" -vss. 14-15

"Faith comes from hearing the Good News. And people hear the Good News when someone tells them about Christ." -Rom. 10:17

- b. Think about this: the fish protected 2 things—

- Jonah's life but more importantly
- The message of salvation for Ninevah!
- God is for you my friends, but there is a much bigger picture than just **my life and yours!**

3. So what is God looking for from us?

-Obviously, to pray

- Don't stop praying for your loved ones by name!

- Charles Spurgeon, Evangelist, said,

“Until the gate of hell is shut upon a man, we must not cease to pray for him. And if we see him hugging the very doorposts of damnation, we must go to the mercy seat and beseech the arm of grace to pluck him from his dangerous position. While there is life there is hope, and although the soul is almost smothered with despair, we must not despair for it, but rather arouse ourselves to awaken the Almighty arm.”

- **Jesus prayed** on the cross for those who were killing him,

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.

- **Paul prayed** non-stop for Jews to be saved. He says in Romans 10:1,

“Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved.”

- Have you stopped praying for others to be saved? Your enemies, the people who never change...

-To get involved

- Visit a Nursing Home (***miracle at Envoy***), spend time with kids, fold clothes or bag groceries
- Mentoring programs, delivering meals on wheels, acts of kindness, the list goes on...

-To invite others to follow Jesus!

- Tell ***your*** story
- inviting a friend to church (Friend's Day is coming March 29)
- Invite a friend to a Bible study

- Invite a neighbor's kid to CIA

Do you know Jesus?