

## Jonah: Part 6 - Overthrowing Grace

Jonah 3:5-10: [5] And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. [6] The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. [7] And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, [8] but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. [9] Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish." [10] When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

### God overthrew the villain.

#### How does a villain become a villain?

*"For most cannibalism is not a primitive or even bestial habit. It is artificial and even artistic, a sort of art for art's sake. Men do not do it because they do not think it horrible; but on the contrary, because they do think it horrible. They wish, in the most literal sense, to sup on horrors. That is why it is often found that rude races like the Australian natives are not cannibals; while much more refined and intelligent races, like the New Zealand Maories, occasionally are. They are refined and intelligent enough to indulge sometimes in a self-conscious diabolism. But if we could understand their minds, or even really understand their language, we should probably find that they were not acting as ignorant, that is as innocent cannibals. They are not doing because they do not think wrong, but precisely because they do think it wrong. They are acting like a Parisian decadent at a Black Mass."*  
– G.K. Chesterton

#### Remorse

Vs 5-6 "They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. [6] The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes"

Culturally, this was a way of expressing remorse. Of grieving.

Today, people wear black in grief.

Sorrow. Feel terrible about what we've done.

2 Corinthians 7:10 "For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death."

You see Godly grief, sorrow, is essential.

#### Repentance

Remorse, or sorrow, is primarily an attitude about the past.

Repentance, is primarily an attitude about the future. It is a willingness to change. It is recognizing

Gen 12:2-3 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Gal 3:13 [13] Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"

And this was necessary for the religious and the irreligious. Israel is proof that it doesn't matter how spiritual you are, how moral you are, how much you know about God and his character... you are still no different than the pagans. You're heart is still sinful. You need help.

What Jesus did was to solve the problem of the religious and the irreligious alike, the Jewish prophet and the pagan King.

**The Gospel is for all.**