

## HOPE OF A SECOND CHANCE

Today we will look at a character from the Bible who was given a second chance. And it wasn't without some lessons to learn, but God was so gracious and loving.

<sup>1</sup> *The Lord gave this message to Jonah, son of Amittai:* <sup>2</sup> *“Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are.”* <sup>3</sup> *But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord...*

**Jonah 1:1-3 NLT**

Jonah was given a **message/word**. **“Get up and go....”**

- Jonah was a prophet of the Old Testament in the Bible.
- He had his struggles.
- Jonah was hard headed and stubborn, too, but he knew the voice of God.
- He knew exactly where God had told him to go, and he knew exactly what God told him to do.

Jonah was directly **disobedient** to God.

*But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction... Jonah 1:3 NLT*

He was going the wrong way. He was going anywhere but Nineveh. Jonah was putting his will before God's. He was comfortable with how he perceived the relationship with God.

Jonah learned about **grace and mercy** but not death.

In his disobedience he endangered the life of several men on a boat. He decided he would rather die to save others for his punishment. A big fish swallowed him up.

Jonah was given a **second chance**.

<sup>1</sup> *Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time.* <sup>2</sup> *“Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you.”*

<sup>3</sup> *This time Jonah obeyed the Lord's command and went to Nineveh.... Jonah 3:1-3 NLT*

- The Lord didn't change His mind when He called Jonah to Nineveh.
- Jonah responded with obedience.
- God loved Jonah so much He still wanted Jonah to be used.

Next Steps:

- When God gives you a word, listen and obey.
- You can't mess up so much that God won't use you. His plans are always greater than ours.
- If you have disobeyed and feel like you're stuck (in a fish), then pray to God and ask Him for forgiveness.

***Have you responded to His word?***

***No matter where you are right now, we can ALL “get up and go” in all kinds of ways. This looks different today, but the command hasn't changed.***

***And if we have gone the opposite way, there is no better time than now to go His way.***