

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
SERMON OUTLINE
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Series #7 Understanding the Book of Jonah

THE PREACHER ON THE RUN
NOW PREACHES TO RESPONSIVE SINNERS

Jonah 3:5-10

There have been four major Great Awakenings recorded and documented in history. The fourth Great Awakening occurred during 1904 and 1905 and is known as “The Welsh Revival.”

In that same year in America a great awakening was happening in **Denver, Colorado**. The headline story of “**The Denver Post**,” dated **January 20, 1905** was as follows....

The Holy Spirit lingered long and lovingly over the effects of Jonah’s preaching. There was **FAITH, FASTING** and **FORGIVENESS** in Nineveh. Jonah was the only preacher in the Bible that didn’t want his listeners to respond to the message of God.

This text reveals some marks of the responsive sinners. It started with:

I. STATEMENT OF FAITH V-5

The Assyrians were warriors, fighting machines, evil and idolatrous people, yet when they heard the word of the Lord they responded and “**Believed**”. Notice: The Bible doesn’t say that they believed Jonah, **but that they believed God**.

The people’s statement of faith is not by what they said, but by what they did as we see in verse five. The people’s faith is seen in their **announcement**; they proclaimed a **fast**; but it was also seen in their **actions**; they put on **sackcloth**.

The people of Nineveh were not ashamed to believe God and cry out for His mercy. A statement of faith consists of a confession of sin and a confession of the Savior (*Matthew 10:32-33*).

In *verses 6-9* we see the second mark of the responsive sinners is:

II. A SORROW FOR FAILURES Vs. 6-9

A. BRINGS AN URGENT ACTION FROM THE KING V-6

B. BRINGS AN URGENT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE KING Vs.7-8

1. The Drastic Measures Required by the King Vs.7-8

Decree: Is a royal order. Decrees were proclaimed by criers or heralds. **Fasting:** Is denying the physical – mainly no food so that one can focus on the spiritual. The king **called on the people to turn from their evil ways and from the violence that was about to consume them**.

Next in *verse 9* we see:

2. The Desired Mercy Requested From the King v-9

The King James uses the word “**repent**” (*V-9*). The New King James uses the word “**relent**” and that is a better word in the context of this passage. In verse nine the Bible gives us an if/then proposition. God’s judgment on Nineveh was conditional on Nineveh’s response to God’s word.

The marks of the responsive sinners is seen in: **A STATEMENT OF FAITH; A SORROW FOR FAILURES**; and in *verse 10* we see:

III. A SIGN OF FORGIVENESS V-10

A. SEEN IN REPENTING V-10a.

When people get saved and forgiven there will always be signs of life that accompany the forgiveness. God saw that the people meant business, that their confession was not just lip service, but that the people turned from their sin.

God saw that the Ninevites had a change in behavior; that their deeds were not evil and that they had repented. Remember that ***Works does not earn forgiveness, but works are the result of forgiveness.***

The people of Nineveh repented, by their works they showed the world they had been forgiven.

B. SEEN IN RELENTING V-10b

It says, “**God Relented**” that is, changed His course. From the human point of view, it looked like repentance, but from the divine perspective, it was simply God’s response to man’s change of heart.

There was a sign of forgiveness from the human side as the Ninevites turned to God and turned from their sin. There was also a sign of forgiveness from heaven’s side as God spared the Ninevites and didn’t bring judgment on the city.

We all deserve the judgment of God; but thanks be to God because of His grace we receive His mercy. It has been well said, ***‘God’s mercies are always unmerited; His grace is never earned.’*** God did not do what He said He would do to Nineveh because they repented and turned to God. Responsive sinners will always have **A STATEMENT OF FAITH, A SORROW FOR FAILURES**, and **A SIGN OF FORGIVENESS**. Responsive sinners will have a changed life and that will be a sign to all who know them and come in contact with them.