

SERIES TITLE: **CASTAWAY**

PART THREE: **SECOND CHANCES**

TEXT: **JONAH 3**

INTRODUCTION.

This is a study of the prophet Jonah, and his emotional argument with God. The story begins with Jonah refusing God's mission, and ends with Jonah's regret over the mission's success. These four chapters illustrate the power and mercy of God in spite of human weaknesses and reactions.

DISCUSSION.

- Describe a time when you were given a second chance, or when you gave one to someone else.

EXAMINATION.

Vv.1-2 Compare and contrast these words with 1:1-2. What do the similarities and differences suggest to you?

Vv.3-5 What is the significance of the repeated use of the word "great" especially in reference to Nineveh? (1:2, 1:4, 1:12, 1:16, 1:17, 3:2, 3:3, 3:5)

- How do you account for the city's response to Jonah's message?

Vv.6-10 What is the significance of including the animals in this show of repentance?

- The king calls the people to "turn" in hopes that God will "turn." And God does. What does this say about God's will?
- When it says God "relented" it is a word filled with emotion, and can also be translated repented, a change due to compassion. Is it possible for God to change?

APPLICATION.

- Repentance is "a radical turning from sin to a new life oriented toward God." What does real repentance look like in your life?
- What are some possible ways Nineveh's response (fasting, sackcloth) could be applicable to us?

- What kinds of emotions, responses, and reactions can be mistaken for repentance? (consider 2 Corinthians 7:9-10; Hebrews 12:16-17)
- What motivation is there for someone who does not have saving faith in Christ to repent without delay?
- What motivation is there for the believer who is not living in obedience to God to repent without delay?
- Between you and God, can you identify areas where you need to turn from sin and re-orient toward him? What can you change, say, or do to accomplish that today?
- FACT: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- REACT: What did you feel?
- ACT: What are you going to do?