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ANNOUNCEMENTS!

www.PendletonAdventist.org

By now you have probably gotten the church newsletter and I hope you have found the parish you are a member of. Please contact parish leader to find out how you can best serve. We also have local small groups that are starting so check with your parish leader about how you can join.

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Recap!!

Jonah 1:1 says that, “The word of the Lord came to Jonah, son of Amittai and said, ‘Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.’ “

The people of Nineveh, the capital city of the Assyrian empire, were so horribly wicked, it’s difficult to describe. What they would do to their prisoners of war is, they would rape the women. They would murder the children. They would take the men and skin them alive, bury them in the desert, and then they would take their tongues, pull their tongues out, drive a stake through their tongues so that they would go crazy before they died of starvation or thirst in this most horrendous death in the middle the desert.

Then they would take their heads, cut them off, and build pyramids with their skulls to say, “We were here, and we conquered this city.”

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Jonah 3:1-10

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

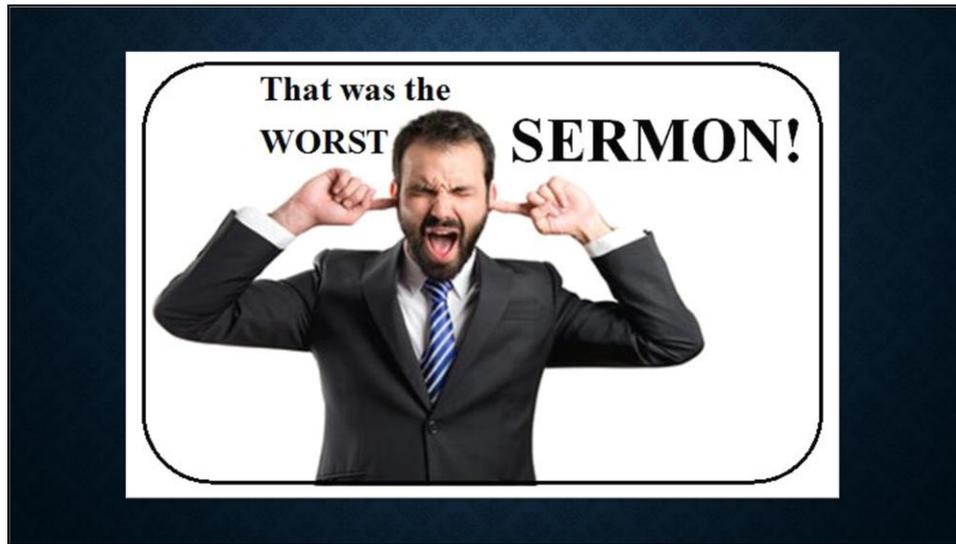
³This time Jonah obeyed the Lord’s command and went to Nineveh, a city so large that it took three days to see it all. ⁴On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: “Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!” ⁵The people of Nineveh believed God’s message, and from the greatest to the least, they declared a fast and put on burlap to show their sorrow.

⁶When the king of Nineveh heard what Jonah was saying, he stepped down from his throne and took off his royal robes. He dressed himself in burlap and sat on a heap of ashes. ⁷Then the king and his nobles sent this decree throughout the city:

“No one, not even the animals from your herds and flocks, may eat or drink anything at all. ⁸ People and animals alike must wear garments of mourning, and everyone must pray earnestly to God. They must turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence. ⁹Who can tell? Perhaps even yet God will change his mind and hold back his fierce anger from destroying us.”

¹⁰ 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.

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What was the worst sermon you've ever heard?

My guess is that it's probably not even close to being as bad as the one Jonah preached to Nineveh. After being vomited ashore, Jonah marches approximately 500 miles to Nineveh to proclaim the message he has been sent to preach: "Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!" Yet it wasn't the quality of Jonah's message, but the quality of his God that turned the city back to Him.

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Miracle?

What was the biggest miracle in this story?

The biggest miracle in the story of Jonah isn't that he survived in a fish, but that an entire city repents! Here we see a city – a people who were far from God – repent of their sins. God relented from destroying them.

The message from God: “Forty days and you will be either be destroyed or you will be forever changed. What’s it going to be?”

When Jonah obeys God’s command to preach the message to Nineveh, we get a glimpse of what happens when one man decides to obey God.

Notice, the time for the mercy of God. You need to understand that God’s mercy, is a limited time offer. You don’t have forever. You don’t even have the promise of tomorrow. There is no promise you will wake up tomorrow.

The mercy of God is a limited time offer. “Forty days and you will be destroyed, or forty days and you will be changed forever. Which will it be?” Some of you, you may be on day thirty-nine. Times’s ticking. Forty days, He says. The mercy of God is a limited time offer. You do not have forever to turn to Him.

How does God make you into a change agent, one who changes your city, one who changes this world? Through simple obedience.

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When God calls, we should obey. When God says, here is an idea for you to do. He says, this is something I want you to do, you should do it.

But make no mistake, God's call on our lives will cost us our time, resources, our comfort and we may need to make sacrifices and even take risks.

But when we decide to obey God because of who He is, then we experience God at work.

What does this look like?

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Story of starting an after-school program.

What does your call look like for you?

Small group meeting at your home.

Perish with your church membership.

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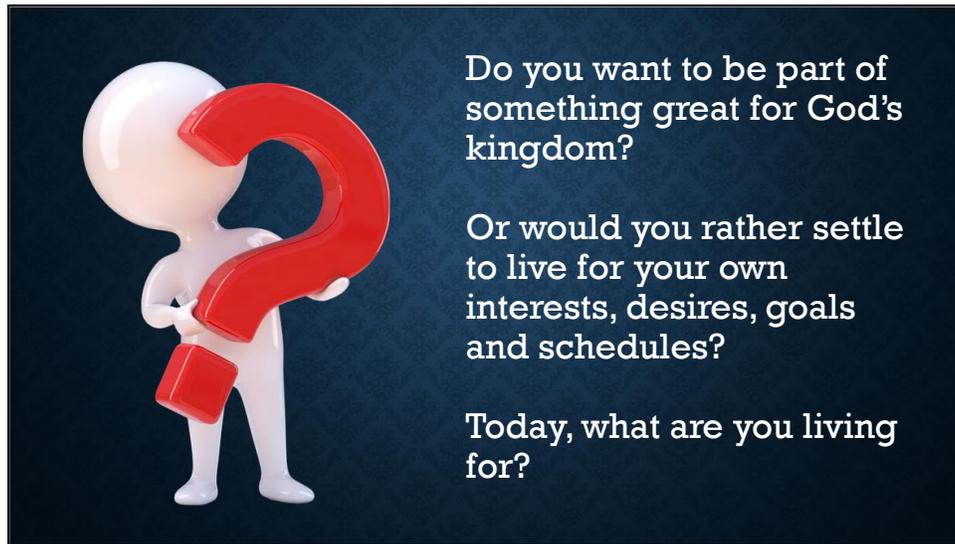


Do you feel you are not good enough? Was Jonah good enough?

Do you feel you don't have the right resources, talents or gifts?

Christ is your adequacy and your strength.

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Do you want to be part of something great for God's kingdom?

Or would you rather settle to live for your own interests, desires, goals and schedules?

Today, what are you living for?

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Matt 10:38, 39

³⁸ If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. ³⁹ If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

Sometimes obeying Jesus takes us through a path of suffering. But Jesus promises His presence through tough times and His power to overcome any difficulty.

Jesus obeyed the will of the Father perfectly. He came to do the Father's will and He obeyed even to the point of dying on a cross. We are saved because of His perfect obedience. Now, Jesus invites us to follow Him. What does Matt 10:38, 39 say?

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Jesus says if we try to hold on to our life, we will lose it. But if we give up our life for His sake, we will hold on to true life.

The way to greatness is to lose yourself, deny yourself and follow Christ.

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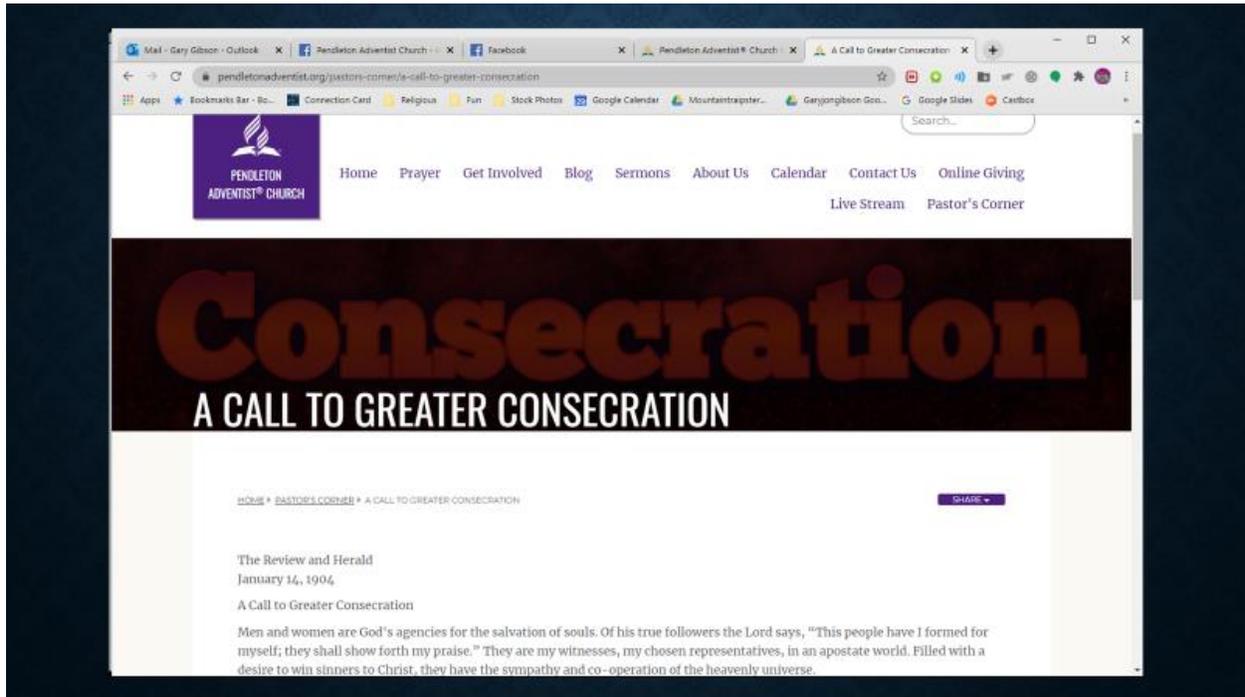


As a Christian, God has called you to join Him on a mission in making disciples.

So take some time to think of people in your life who don't know Jesus.

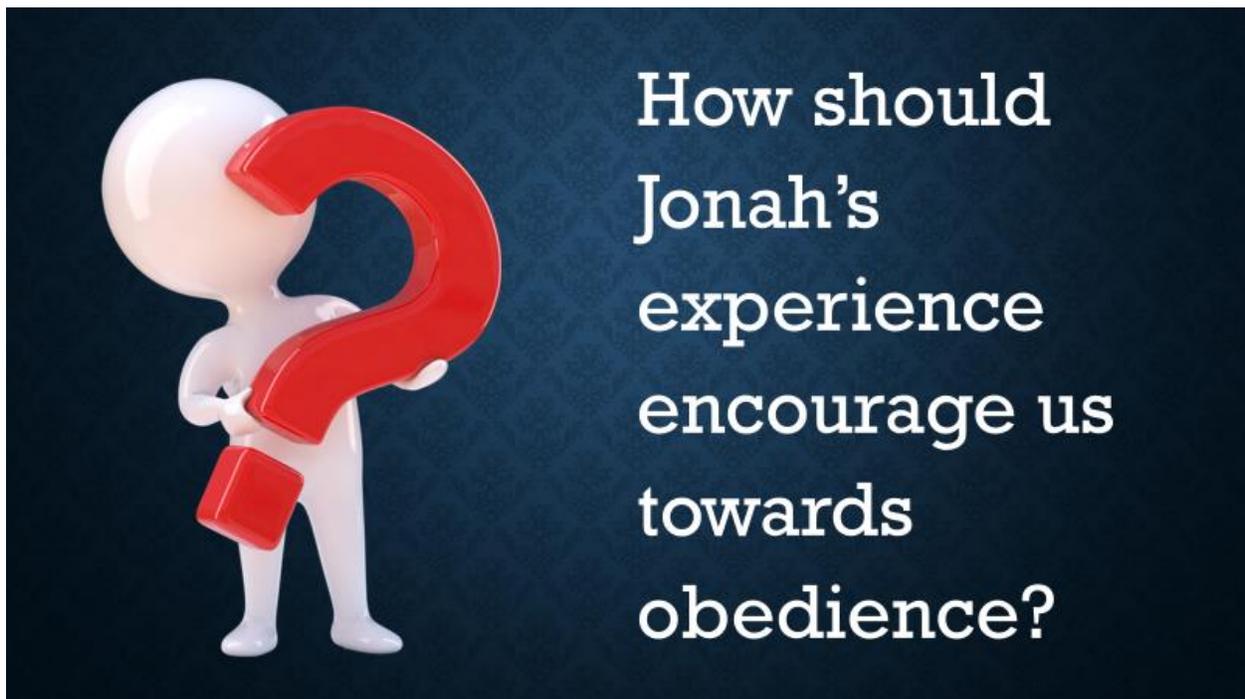
Pray for them. Can you find an opportunity this week to share the gospel with them?

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How do we do this?

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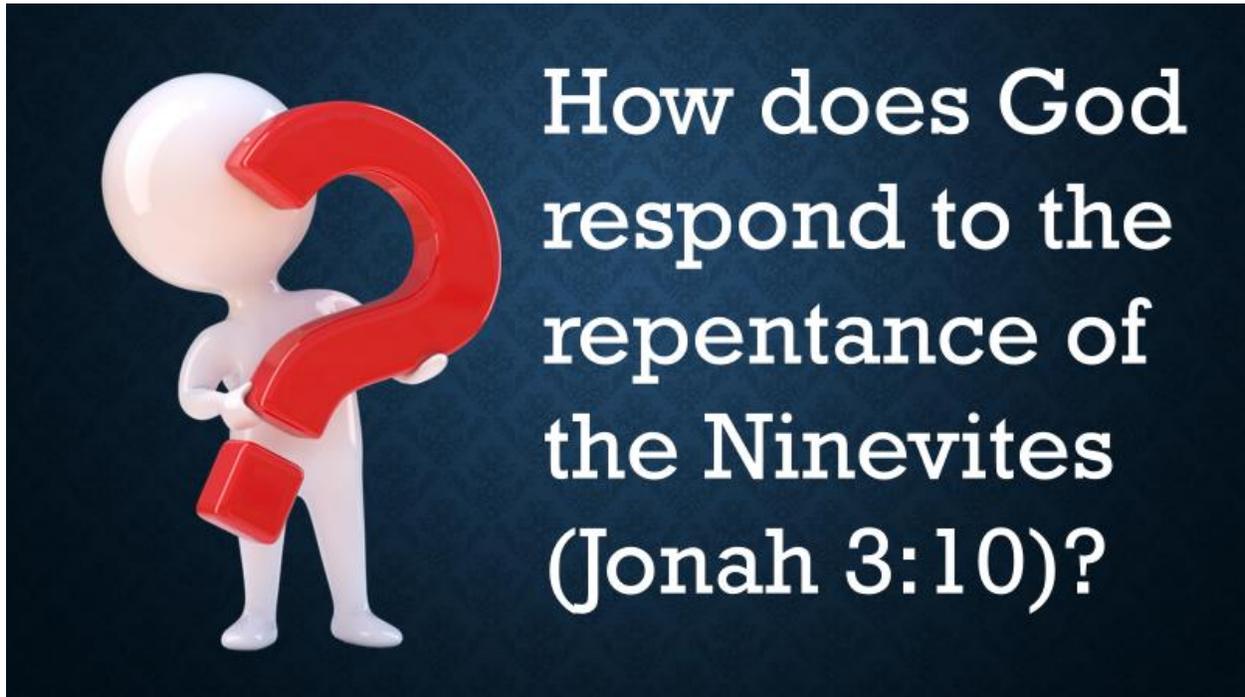


How should Jonah's experience encourage us towards obedience?



The Hebrew word for “repentance” occurs four times in Jonah. All four of them are within the verse of 8-10, which signals the emergence of a new and important theme. What do you think that is?

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How does God respond to the repentance of the Ninevites (3:10)?

Follow Up: What does His response teach us about His character?