



Proclaiming the Word Is Obedience (Jonah 3)

True obedience to God is demonstrated by proclaiming His Word, regardless of fear, circumstance, or personal preference.

After running from God's command in chapter 1, being swallowed and restored in chapter 2, Jonah now faces the same command again in chapter 3: "Arise, go to Nineveh, and proclaim."

1. God Calls...Again (The God of Second Chances)

- Disobedience does not always disqualify, but it does delay the blessing
- Peter's depression was caused by disobedience, but Jesus restored his calling and purpose
- Peter...Paul...Prodigal...YOU

2. The only acceptable answer is...YES, LORD

- Jonah did exactly as the Word of the LORD commanded
- Our obedience must align with Scripture, or else we are still in disobedience. Partial obedience is still complete rebellion!
- Our walk must be 100% in accordance with God's commands

3. Obedience unleashes God's power in unimaginable ways

- The Word of the LORD impacted the heart of the king and the people. Repentance. Revival.
- The power of the Gospel can and will transform lives, if we are obedient to proclaim it!
- Obedience to God's call to proclaim His Word transforms both the messenger and the listener.

1. Why is obedience so vital in proclaiming God's Word? Read John 14:15 and James 1:22–25 and explain how these verses relate. Can a disobedient life proclaim the Holy Word accurately?
2. How does Jonah's second chance show God's mercy toward His servants? Read Psalm 145:8–9 and Micah 7:18–19. How would you define mercy and how it affects humanity? What would your life be like if God did not show you mercy? How can you show mercy to others?
3. What does Jonah's obedience teach us about preaching only what God commands? Compare with Jeremiah 1:7–9 and Galatians 1:8–9. What are some ways that people today add or take away from God's Word? What are some ways you can examine your speech and the messages of others to make sure they are Biblically accurate? What are some of the temptations that would cause us to alter God's Word?
4. How does God's Word demonstrate power even when delivered through a reluctant messenger? Examine 1 Corinthians 2:1–5 and 2 Corinthians 4:7. How does Paul view himself in the mirror of the power of the Gospel? What troubles can come when we focus on the messenger and not the message?
5. What lessons can we learn from Nineveh's repentance in response to the Word? Meditate on Matthew 12:41 and 2 Corinthians 7:9–10. What is the significance and impact of repentance? Is it possible to obey God without repentance? Explain.
6. In what ways can believers today "go to Nineveh," places or people they find uncomfortable? Consider Acts 1:8 and Mark 16:15. Are there any areas in the world that God does not want us to go? How does Journey's Core to Corners relate to this truth?
7. How does proclaiming the Word strengthen our relationship with God? Study Philippians 2:12–14 and Romans 12:1–2. How does our relationship with Jesus impact our conversation with others? How does our obedience affect our heart?
8. Read Psalm 103:8-10; Romans 11:29; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 5:29; Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 10:14-17. How do these verses relate/reinforce the truths in Jonah 3?