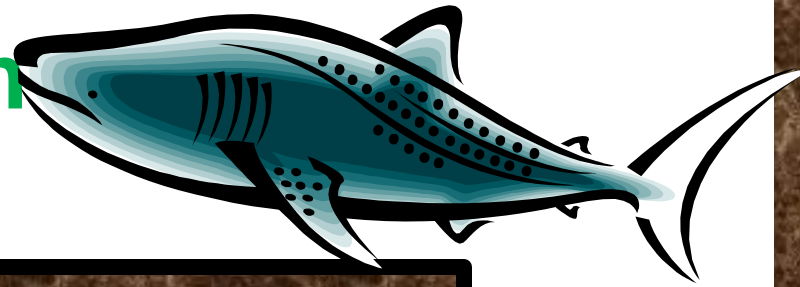


***How to Change
a City?***

Book of Jonah a Story of:

- ❖ A reluctant prophet-**Jonah**
- ❖ A wicked city-**Nineveh**
- ❖ A Loving Father-**God**



**Story Overshadowed
By a Great Fish**

**The real greatness of the book is the
change of heart of an entire city!**

How did this city change?

How can this city change?

1. Don't Run From a Hard Duty!

❖ **Jonah 1:1-3**, *“Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah...saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish”*

❖ Not easy to be God's messenger

❖ Not easy for Jonah to go to Nineveh & cry against their wicked practices



2. Be Confident w/ God's Sign!

❖ Matthew 12:38-41, Jonah's sign, A Big Fish

THAT WAS ENOUGH !

What About Our Sign?

❖ John 20:30-31, *“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”*

THAT IS ENOUGH !

3. Teach the Word of God

❖ **Jonah 3:2-3**, *“Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the Lord’s word.”*

❖ **God’s word has power to transform lives**

❖ **Romans 1:16**, *“the gospel of Christ...is the power of God unto salvation...”*

❖ **1 Peter 4:11**, *“if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ”*



4. Teach Boldly w/o Fear

- ❖ **Jonah 3:4, 9**, Jonah entered the city & cried, “forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown ...Who can tell if God will...turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?”
- ❖ Always be ready and never be ashamed
 - ❖ **1 Peter 3:15-16**, “be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.”



5. Teach w/Wisdom & Compassion

❖ Use wisdom with words

❖ **Colossians 4:5-6**, *“Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”*

❖ **Jude 22-23**, *“And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”*



6. Feel The Urgency of the Task

- ❖ **Jonah 3:2-4**, Jonah arose, went, cried out, according to *“the word of the Lord”*
- ❖ **Souls are dying, wasting too much time**
- ❖ **1 Corinthians 15:34**, *“Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.”*
- ❖ **2 Corinthians 4:3**, *“if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost”*
- ❖ **2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**, *“vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”*

6. Feel the Urgency of the Task

❖ Compel them to listen

❖ **Luke 14:23-24**, ***“Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.”***

❖ Place & time for reproving & rebuking

❖ **2 Timothy 2:2-4**, ***“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.***



How Do We Change a City?

- ❖ Don't run from a hard duty
- ❖ Be confident w/ sign God provides
- ❖ Teach the Word of God
- ❖ Teach boldly and without fear
- ❖ Teach w/ wisdom & compassion
- ❖ Feel the urgency of the task

Results: Jonah 3:5-10