

# The Jonah Problem

Jonah 3:1-10

Luke 24:44-53

Re-read the scripture passages together.

If you would like, read the entire story of Jonah, it's only 4 chapters. 😊

Think of a time you changed your mind. What was the outcome of that change? Was it an easy road after you changed your mind?

JD contrasted Mr. Rogers and the Assyrians. Talking about the way they treated their neighbors. We may remember Mr. Rogers introducing us to all sorts of different people and celebrating them. While the Assyrians conquered their neighbors and would often torture them.

- How do we treat our neighbors?
- What would it be like if you treated troublesome neighbors like God treated the Ninevites?

Jonah is the most successful prophet in the Bible, but he didn't want to be. He didn't like the Assyrians. He tried to run the other way, even when the Ninevites repented he wouldn't share God's joy.

- How do we overcome our own distaste for the Ninevites in our lives?
- How do we react when we hear that good things happen to those we don't like?

Jesus left the disciples instructions. Tell the world that there is grace and forgiveness. He didn't put any restrictions on this, He wants everyone to know.

- How are you doing?
- How can we help others with this commission?

Tim Keller, who recently passed away, started a church in NYC. He wasn't the 1<sup>st</sup> choice; in fact he was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice... many others had turned the commission down as they saw the situation as impossible. A church in New York didn't sound like it would succeed. So, the others simply said, "No, I won't serve".

- Do you see yourself in this story?
- Which side do you naturally pick?

JD asked us "Who is your Assyria?" Who do you refuse to go to tell about God's love?