

THE PATIENCE OF GOD
JONAH 1:1-4:11
Message #10
December 8, 2002

KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING GOD

PRESENCE

“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is **PATIENT** toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

Why did Jonah refuse to evangelize Nineveh?

Was the mission too **difficult**?

Was the mission too **dangerous**?

Was the mission too **depressing**?

CONVERSATION

- ♦ Jonah disobeys God’s command to evangelize the lost at Nineveh (1:1-2:10).
 - ➔ God’s command (1:1-2)
 - ➔ Jonah’s disobedience (1:3)
 - ➔ God’s discipline (1:4-17)
 - God sovereignly controls the wind and the seas (4-16).
 - God sovereignly controls the fish (17).
 - ➔ Jonah’s repentance (2:1-9)
 - Jonah acknowledges God’s sovereignty (1-6).
 - Jonah renews his vow to worship God alone (7-9).
 - ➔ God’s deliverance (2:10).

- ♦ Jonah obeys God’s command to evangelize the lost at Nineveh (3:1-4:11).
 - ➔ God recommissions (3:1-3).
 - ➔ Jonah preaches (3:4).
 - ➔ Nineveh believes (3:5-9).
 - ➔ God forgives (3:10).

→ Jonah pouts (4:1-5).

→ God teaches (4:6-11).

- God prepares an illustration (6-8)
- God explains how he values lost Gentile souls (9-11).

RESPONSE

BELIEVE?

Did God give me something to strengthen my faith and to resolve my doubts?

- The book of Jonah is a reminder to Israel of her missionary purpose.
- God is sovereign. He will accomplish His purposes
- The repentance of the Gentiles is a rebuke to Israel. Jonah's spiritual hardness illustrates Israel's callousness. God is a God of love and grace.
- Jonah's lack of divine perspective makes his repentance (and Israel's) a greater problem than the repentance of Nineveh. Still true today!

FEEL?

Did God give me something to thrill my heart and to ignite my passion?

- Salvation is not by works!
- God will not cast us aside because of faithlessness!

DO?

Did God give me something to deepen my love and to challenge my commitments?

EVANGELIZE THE LOST! HE ACCEPTS NO EXCUSES!