

The Life Challenge

Title: A Matter of Interpretation
Text: Jonah 3:1-4
Speaker: Matt Ewert
Date: June 7, 2020



WARM-UP

Is there anything in life you regret? Something that, if you could go back and do over, or make a different choice, you would? Share the circumstances and what you wish you had done differently.

OR

Can you recall a time that you were given a second chance at something? Describe the circumstances. Do you remember how it made you feel to get a second chance?

DISCUSSION

Read Jonah 3:1-4. This portion of scripture begins with God giving Jonah a second chance at carrying out His call.

- God could have called anyone to carry out His mission. Why do you think he gave Jonah a second chance after he already failed God miserably once?
- What does this reveal about God?
- Do you find it easy, or difficult, to give second chances to others? Explain your answer.

We don't have a record of the conversation between Jonah and God when God gave him the message for the Ninevites. All we know is that the way Jonah declared it, it was void of any mercy. No call to repentance. No instructions to change their ways. Just a proclamation of doom.

- What explanation can you give for a person like Jonah, who had experienced God's mercy and was given a fresh start, so quickly turning around and being harsh and unmerciful to others?
- Give other examples of the good ways that God relates to us that we then fail to extend to others.
- Why do you think we so often fail to "pay forward" what we have received from God?
- What specific "faults" in other people make it hardest for you to feel mercy towards them? Why?

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DISCUSSION

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. Consider verse 16.

- What do you think it means to regard someone from a worldly point of view?
- Who would it mean to not regard people in that way?
- Do you find it easier to see people through your eyes, or God's eyes?

Pray:

- Ask God to help you regard the people in your life from His point of view and not your own.