



**Big Idea:**

**God saves sinners through the message of His judgment.**

-- v. 1 – **God is the God of second chances.**

**1.) By all human logic, Jonah faces an IMPOSSIBLE task (v. 2).**

- The size of Nineveh – A three day's journey.
- The population of Nineveh – Perhaps a million or more
- The Wickedness of Nineveh – Nahum describes Nineveh as a place of fraud, robbery, greed, sexual immorality, violence, witchcraft, and idolatry (Nahum 3:1).
- Our own task of evangelism can often seem overwhelming as well.

**2.) Hope for the nations begins with a WARNING from God (v. 4a).**

-- **Jonah simply calls out, speaking God's message.**

- There is no evidence in this passage that Jonah does anything at all to dress up his message from the Lord (2 Timothy 4:1-2).

-- **v. 4b – “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”**

- This is surely not all he said, but is a sort of summary statement—a big idea of sorts.
- The Good News of salvation begins with the truth about sin and **JUDGEMENT** (Matthew 3:1-2, 4:17; Acts 17:30-31).
- We cheapen the Gospel when we ignore unpopular truths.

**3.) Our HOPE is perfect, for “Salvation belongs to the Lord.”**

-- v. 5-10 – **Against all odds, God saves Nineveh through the testimony of one unworthy prophet.**

-- The biggest miracle in Jonah's story is not the fish, but the FORGIVENESS

-- There is no natural explanation for this massive conversion. There is only a supernatural explanation: God determined to save that city in that generation (Mark 10:25-27).

-- v. 5-9 – **Signs of Sincere Repentance**

-- Fasting – Forsaking the physical to emphasize the spiritual.

-- Sackcloth and ashes – Forsaking outward appearance to focus on inner condition.

-- v. 9 – Repentance understands that God's forgiveness is not **DISERVED**

-- Sincere repentance is the surest sign of sincere salvation. Where there is no repentance for sin, there is no salvation.

-- **Our hope is perfect because God is perfect in MERCY**

-- v. 9-10 – God responds to their repentance with redemption (Jeremiah 18:7-10).

-- God didn't "change His mind."

-- What changed was the hearts of the Ninevites.

-- The message of God's judgment ought always be communicated with wonder and joy over God's mercy (1 John 1:9).

### Application

-- Jimmy Needham – "Part the Clouds" – "Let's part the clouds and show the world the Son."

-- Do not be afraid to **SPEAK** of God's judgment and the eternal consequences of our sin.

-- Romans 1:16 – "*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.*"