



**Jonah – Repent**  
**Sermon Discussion Questions – Feb. 19th**

***Scripture Passages:***

**Jonah 2:9**

... Salvation comes from the Lord.”

**Jonah 3:1-10**

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: 2 “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.” 3 Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. 4 Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” 5 The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. 6 When Jonah’s warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. 7 This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. 8 But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. 9 Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.” 10 When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

**Romans 6:23**

23For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Jonah 4:1**

This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry.

### ***Warm Up:***

The weather has gradually warmed up the last few weeks and has been getting me excited about spring coming up. There are so many different things that get associated with spring too. Like spring clean-up, new life from plants, trees, and flowers, and kids spring sports starting up. What aspects of spring are you looking forward to?

### ***Discussion:***

- 1.** Pastor Tom begins by declaring that “if you believe you have done too much and run to an unreachable place, you are wrong. God can use all things and God can reach you.”  
What are your initial reactions to this statement? What are some places or situations people might consider as unreachable?
- 2.** Journeying through Jonah’s story there seems to be a theme we all know very well. When God called to Jonah to go, Jonah responded with a no and ran from what God wanted him to do. We have all told God no before and made the choice to run from what God would desire or ask us to do.  
Are there times you can remember doing this? What might have been the reason you said no and ran or choose a different option?
- 3.** Pastor Tom notes a defining characteristic of God through the book of Jonah, saying God is a pursuing God. Even after Jonah told God no and choose to run, God still pursued him. In the midst of Jonah’s running, being thrown overboard, and swallowed by a fish, God has been pursuing him. Jonah begins to see this as he declares “Salvation comes from the Lord.”  
How has God been pursuing you? How might you know God is pursuing you? God saved Jonah for a purpose, what purpose might he be trying to save you for?
- 4.** Read Jonah 3:1-5 and Romans 6:23. Jonah had received a second chance, even Nineveh receives a second chance. We received a free gift, a second chance if you will, as we read the Romans passage.  
Have you been looking for a second chance? What might it look like to turn to a God who is pursuing you?
- 5.** Read Jonah 3:5-10. As Nineveh received their second chance, they responded to Jonah’s warning from God. They choose a symbolic act of humbling themselves and repenting for what they have done.  
What might repentance look like for you? What things might you have to surrender to move towards repentance?
- 6.** Read Jonah 4:1. Pastor Tom explains he is glad that Jonah’s emotions were expressed this way. Pastor Tom resonated with Jonah saying, “While I believe I walk with Jesus as my Lord and Savior, at least part of my story is me being disappointed with God and him being disappointed with me.”  
Do you resonate with this? Why?

7. "We serve a God of second chances and we are people in need of them"- Pastor Tom.  
Where were you when you needed the second chance? Where are you now?

***Next Steps:***

Pastor Tom offered some really great questions to reflect on and pray through. I encourage taking an honest look at your life, the things you are struggling with, the desire you have and try journaling your responses.

1. What is the second chance God may be offering you?
2. What has happened, that makes you think you are not qualified?
3. What things in your life, good and bad, could God use to make a difference?
4. Is it possible, the thing that you think has ruined your life, God wants to take and use to keep someone from drowning in the same sea you were drowning in?