

SECOND CHANCES

jonah 3



SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, Pastor Peter preached on God's second chances that bring us back to God's Compassion and God's Commission. We are certainly not owed second chances, but when we are given second chances, we must recognize it as the grace of God and take the opportunity to relish his love and compassion. Jonah is given a second chance to bring the message of repentance to Nineveh, and we see the reluctant prophet go. He goes to fulfill his duty, but we see that he still does not carry the compassion of God.

He has drifted from both the compassion and commission of God. As we turn inwards, we ask ourselves: Have we also drifted from the compassion and commission of God?

As we get older, we get better at fooling others that we are pretty decent Christians. What's scary is that we begin to fool ourselves and believe we are living at the center of God's will, but we are actually drifting. God's strategy is to surface the self-deceiving spirit within us. It's embarrassing. We don't want it to be known by others, but that's God's grace at times. Sometimes will bring assignments our way and we wrestle with it.

So as we reflect, perhaps we are more like Jonah than we think. Many of us have drifted away from the compassion of God and his commission, but as we are also given second chances, let's respond and come back to the center of God's heart. He is a God of compassion, of mercy, of second chances.



OUTLINE

1 GOD'S COMPASSION AND COMMISSION
God's second chance brings us back to his compassion. Nineveh was a 'great' city - massive in size, and it paints a picture of God's great compassion for the many inhabitants of the land. God still uses Jonah's short and perhaps insincere message to bring repentance and revival to the city. The 'second chance' for the city tells of God's great compassion. But not only is Nineveh given a 'second chance,' but Jonah is given a second chance as well. God is also calling Jonah back to the center of His heart.

2 OUR EASILY-DRIFTING HEARTS
When we examine our hearts, we also find that there are many times that we have drifted from God's heart. Some examples:
a) Forgive and be reconciled -- "No, he started it!"
b) Stop being so pretentious -- "No, I deserve to be this way"
c) Become part of God's family -- "Not with those people"
d) Serve the poor -- "No, I'm too busy"
e) Go on missions -- "I already went in the past, I'm too busy now"
Come back to the center of God's heart (Compassion and Commission) whenever you realize you've drifted.



kairos church



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

When have you personally experienced a second chance from God?

2

How have you seen compassion change a person or situation?

3

Pastor Peter mentioned Jonah not wanting to 'get his hands dirty' and would rather be the prophet of positivity. Do we also find ourselves having that same barrier?

4

How is God asking us to remember His Compassion? How is He asking us to remember His Commission?

5

What's one way we might fool ourselves into thinking that we are following God's will? What do we justify in our actions even though we might know it doesn't lead towards God's glory?



BIG IDEA

Though we are not owed a second chance, God has given us a second chance. He gives us second chances, because he wants to bring us back to his compassion and his commission. When we realize we have drifted (and we all have) -- let's be mindful of it and humble ourselves as we realign ourselves to the center of the heart of God - to be compassionate as he is and to fulfill the great commission He's given us.