

Series: *A Moody Missionary Meets the Merciful Master*

Lesson: *A God of Mercy*

Text: Jonah 3:1 – 10 (L5)

Date: Sunday, October 2, 2011

*Colonial Hills
Baptist Church*

INTRODUCTION

A casual observation of humanity suggests that the greatestcripler of mankind is _____ and the greatest comfort of mankind is _____. The Psalmist David was convinced that his sins were forgiven and exclaimed, “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity” (Psalm 32:1).

There is perhaps no clearer expression of God’s mercy than in the third chapter of Jonah. Having studied in detail the grace of God in chapters 1-2, we now plumb the depths of God’s mercy. While *grace* has been defined as “God giving us what we _____ deserve,” *mercy* is “God _____ giving us what we do deserve.” As we study Jonah 3 today, we will discover three proofs that God is a God of mercy.

THE _____ GOD USES TO PREACH (vv. 1-3)

1. *People with a _____ of grace*
2. *People with a sense of _____*
3. *People with a message from _____*

Application:

THE _____ GOD CHOSE TO PROCLAIM (v. 4)

1. *A message of _____*
2. *A message of _____*

Application:

THE _____ GOD LOVES TO PROVIDE (vv. 5-10)

1. *The _____ necessary for God’s pardon*
2. *The provision of God’s pardon*

Application:

CONCLUSION

The masses of humanity often ask the same questions as the Psalmist Asaph: “Will the Lord cast off for ever? And will He be favourable no more? Is His mercy clean gone for ever? Doth His promise fail for evermore? Hath God forgotten to be gracious? Hath He in anger shut up His tender mercies?” (Psalm 77:9). The revival of Nineveh is a resounding “No!” to those questions. We learn, instead, that “The LORD God [is] merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping _____ for thousands, _____ iniquity and transgression and sin” (Exodus 34:6-7).

Indeed, God is a God of mercy, who loves to extend forgiveness that is as deep as the everlasting mercy behind it. Our God is a merciful God!

*Depth of mercy! Can there be
Mercy still reserved for me?
Can my God His wrath forbear—
Me, the chief of sinners, spare?*

*I have long withstood His grace,
Long provoked Him to His face,
Would not hearken to His calls,
Grieved Him by a thousand falls.*

*If I rightly read Thy heart,
If Thou all compassion art,
Bow Thine ear, in mercy bow—
Pardon and accept me now.*

*Jesus speaks and pleads His blood!
He disarms the wrath of God.
Now my Father’s mercies move—
Justice lingers into love.*

*There for me the Savior stands,
Shows His wounds and spreads His hands.
God is love! I know, I feel;
Jesus weeps and loves me still.*