

Series: *A Moody Missionary Meets the Merciful Master*

Lesson: *A Nation's Finest Hour*

Text: Jonah 3:4-10 (L6)

Date: Sunday, October 7, 2011

*Colonial Hills
Baptist Church*

INTRODUCTION

“Sandwiched between the beginning and the end of Nineveh’s eventful life is what should be seen as her _____ hour.” This third chapter of Jonah stands as a message of encouragement to the current generation of our great nation. There is still hope for America! While the United States continues to “store up wrath against the day of wrath” (Romans 2:5), she can experience the mercy of God in a revival like Nineveh. In Jonah 3, we find three crucial responses if America would avoid God’s wrath and once again experience His blessing.

AMERICA MUST HEAR THE _____ OF GOD (v. 4).

1. *America must hear God’s Word, because it speaks of _____.*

Application:

2. *America must hear God’s Word, because it speaks of _____.*

Application:

Application: God has transferred His missionary responsibility from one nation to another.

AMERICA MUST BELIEVE THE _____ OF GOD (vv. 5-8).

1. *America must _____ her sins.*

Application:

2. *America must _____ her sins.*

Application:

3. *America must _____ from her sins.*

Application:

AMERICA MUST PLEAD FOR THE _____ OF GOD (vv. 8-9).

1. *We must plead humbly, because God doesn’t _____ us anything.*

2. *We must plead _____, because this may be our last chance.*

Application:

CONCLUSION

In speaking to a nation that had rejected Him, Jesus declared, “The men of Nineveh shall rise up in the judgment with this generation and shall condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and, behold, a Greater than Jonah is here” (Luke 11:32). So far, the same could be declared against our own nation, for we have thrown our Word-centered heritage behind our backs and rushed headlong into the destructive pleasures of sin. Perhaps like Nineveh, though, our “finest hour” is yet ahead, when we hear the God’s Word and its message of judgment and mercy and respond to it by believing in the wrath of God toward our sin and pleading for the mercy of God instead. Our God still loves to save—indeed He’s the God of salvation (cf. 2:9; 4:2; Psalm 68:20)!

Believer, Jonah 3 gives a responsibility to us, as well. The chapter forces us to ask ourselves, “Am I contributing to America’s continuation in sin and judgment either (1) because I refuse to play the part of Jonah and issue a bold and confrontational, but merciful message of wrath and salvation, or (2) because I resist dealing with my own sin and pursuing the righteousness of Christ?” We say we love America, and we sing, “God Bless America!”—but are we really burdened with the “yet forty days” impending judgment upon America?

Let us work and pray that America’s “finest hour” may still be realized!