

Outlook

Jonah 4:2



"You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love."

Today will be our third and final brief visit to the story of Jonah. Although it's just 4 short chapters long, this Old Testament book is one that easily stays in our minds as we remember the famous episode in which Jonah was swallowed by a giant fish and then deposited safely on a sea shore many miles away. But what about the other miracle that comes later in the story? It might actually be more incredible than the fish-swallowing story!

Having (finally) arrived in Nineveh - the city of his sworn enemies - Jonah proceeded to preach to the whole city. It was a city of *'more than 120,000 people'* (Jonah 4:11) and the Bible tells us that the preaching of just one man caused the whole city, from the ordinary person in the street to the king himself, to repent and to seek God's forgiveness for their wickedness. Wow!

The story of being swallowed by a fish is amazing, but so too is this account of a whole city turning away from sin and choosing worship the only true God!

Collect for 6th July

God our saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



Bible Readings for 6th July

Jonah 3 & 4

3¹ 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.

4¹ But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. **2** He prayed to the Lord, 'Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. **3** Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.'

4 But the Lord replied, 'Is it right for you to be angry?'

5 Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. **6** Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. **7** But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. **8** When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, 'It would be better for

me to die than to live.’ ⁹ But God said to Jonah, ‘Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?’

‘It is,’ he said. ‘And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.’

¹⁰ But the Lord said, ‘You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It

sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left – and also many animals?’

Luke 10:1-20

10¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. ⁴ Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

⁵ ‘When you enter a house, first say, “Peace to this house.” ⁶ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

⁸ ‘When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. ⁹ Heal those there who are ill and tell them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you.” ¹⁰ But when

you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ “Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God has come near.” ¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

¹³ ‘Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. ¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades.

¹⁶ ‘Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.’ ¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy and said, ‘Lord,

even the demons submit to us in your name.'

¹⁸ He replied, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all

the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. ²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

We're Hiring!



We need to find a new cleaner for St Francis'. This is a paid role and will involve about 2 hours per week of work, which this might increase if/when new hirers make bookings, or if spring cleaning is needed.

Speak to Sue or Dot for more info.

Stay & Play



Thank you to everyone who has come along to Stay & Play in recent weeks to see what we get up to. Ian & Elizabeth are going to host a meeting in the near future with all who are interested in helping with this wonderful ministry - to come up with a workable plan for the future. Let us know if you'd like to be invited to that.

Keep in Touch



Wardens: Keith 07905 249 860 & Dot 07446 072 097

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Congratulations!

Many congratulations to Mr & Mrs Daniel & Emmanuella Luce from our 11o'clock service who were married very recently in the Cotswolds.

"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

(Matthew 19:6)

