

TAKEAWAY

MISSION UNCOMFORTABLE

Lessons from the belly of a whale

Loving the Enemy

Sunday 29th September

INTRODUCTION

This week, we looked at the final chapter of Jonah in each of our services. We saw that Jonah's root problem has two parts; he believes that certain other people are unworthy of God's grace (i.e. the Ninevites) while others, on some level, deserve it (i.e. himself!)

DISCUSS

1. What's the silliest thing you've ever seen someone get upset about?
2. If you feel able to be honest, what's the silliest thing you've ever been upset about?

EXPLAIN

Jonah 3v10 says, "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." You might think the story would end here – Jonah has finally done what God asked and the people of Nineveh have changed their ways. Jonah's preaching was phenomenally successful! Yet the story continues...

READ

Jonah 4:1-5

DISCUSS

3. Jonah knew what God was like (v2) but he didn't like it. What things about God do you struggle with? Are there parts of His character or ways that you find it hard to like?
4. The Ninevites had done lots of terrible things, for centuries. They'd been warned before. How do you think God should have dealt with them? On what basis?

READ

Jonah 4:6-11

DISCUSS

5. How far do you feel sympathy with Jonah here? Why?

6. Jonah felt entitled - he believed that he deserved for things to go his way. His perspective is not unique! How do you know when you've got to a place of feeling entitled? What are the tell tale signs for you?

7. Why is the feeling that we 'deserve' good things from God problematic?

8. What do you observe about how God deals with Jonah throughout the story?

9. What do you believe the message of this chapter is for us?

