

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE / OCTOBER 15

TO APPLY—NOT REHASH—THE SERMON

Read

Read Jonah 2:8–3:10 and consider making some observations about the passage.

Sermon Recap

Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:

- It is more important for a pastor/preacher to have experienced brokenness and mercy than to be gifted.
- To repent is to go in a totally different direction with our actions.
- “You and I will never appreciate or receive mercy until we come to terms with the seriousness of our sin.”
- “Brokenness is God’s necessary pathway to us laying hold of his mercy.”
- Like a glow stick, we won’t shine until we’ve been cracked ... “no brokenness, no usefulness.”

Group Discussion

1. Pastor Bryan reminds us in this sermon that we cannot give away to others what we have ourselves lost touch with.
How do you stay in touch with God’s mercy, so that you can be a vessel of mercy to others?
2. Romans 2:4 says that “God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance.” How is Jonah’s story a great illustration of this? How does your life illustrate this truth?
3. Pastor Bryan teaches that “the business of giving up control of your life” to God is a “moment-by-moment” proposition.
How do you attempt to stay in the right mindset about God’s place in your life?
4. Is there a time recently that you have repented and changed the course of your actions in a particular area of your life?
What has been the long-term result of that repentance? How did you experience God’s mercy and forgiveness in that story? Are you experiencing freedom or improved relationships with others as a result?

WEEKLY RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- Reflect:** What characteristics of God are evident in Jonah’s story here in Jonah 2:8–3:10?
- Respond:** How does what you are learning about God’s character in the Jonah story impact the way you pray and interact with God? Has there been a change in how you lean into God’s mercy as you go about your life?
- Reach:** Pastor Bryan reminds us that “God’s mercy is for everyone.” Identify people that you know, beyond people that you normally associate with, who need God’s mercy. What makes you think that they might be receptive to it?

PRAYER

- Pray that we would be a people who see the benefit of turning from our evil and bad behavior, leaning on God’s mercy, and changing our direction. Pray that our co-workers, neighbors, and spouses would see God working in our lives through repentance and forgiveness.
- Pray that we would remember that God’s mercy is for everyone, and that we would fervently look for opportunities to extend that mercy to the broken in our society. Pray that we would extend mercy beyond our normal circles of influence.