

How To Change A City

(Jonah 3:5-10)

- Introduction:
1. The book of Jonah is a story about a man, a city, and a God — these three main lessons are often overshadowed by the great fish.
 2. The characters could be described in the following ways:
 - a. Jonah — The reluctant prophet.
 - b. Nineveh — The wicked city.
 - c. God — The loving Father.
 3. The book of Jonah is not spectacular simply because of the great fish, but by something even greater — the change of heart of an entire city!
 4. How did this city change, and how can we change our city for the better?
- I. Don't Run From Hard Duty
- A. (Jonah 1:1-3).
 - B. It is not always easy to be the messenger of God's word.
 - C. It could not have been easy for Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh and cry out against its wicked practices.
- II. Be Confident With The Sign God Provides
- A. (Matthew 12:38-41).
 - B. The sign of Jonah was his experience with the fish...it was enough.
 - C. (John 20:30-31).
 - D. We have the sign of the resurrection today...it too is enough.
- III. Preach The Word Of God
- A. (Jonah 3:2).
 - B. The power to transform lives from sinners into saints is in the gospel.
 - C. (Romans 1:16; 1 Peter 4:11; 2 Timothy 4:1-4).
- IV. Don't Be Afraid Of A Confrontational Message
- A. (Jonah 3:4, 9).
 - B. There is a place for reproof and rebuke as well as exhorting (2 Timothy 4:2).
 - C. Wisdom needs to be used with our words (Colossians 4:5-6; Jude 22-23).
- V. Feel The Urgency Of The Task
- A. (Jonah 3:2-4).
 - B. Souls are dying...too much time has been wasted already (Colossians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 15:34).
 - C. Compel them to listen (Luke 14:23).
- Conclusion:
1. The responsibility of Nineveh was to repent; the responsibility of judgment belonged to God; the responsibility of Jonah (like our responsibility today) was to attempt to change a city.
 2. Let's be about that task in Glasgow.