How To Change A City
(John 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
    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 reproving and rebuking 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.