

enCOURAGEment: Jesus & Jonah

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Question: How do you think the bombardment of news stories throughout the day effect you?

KEY QUESTION: Can the God who redeems our personal lives bring healing to a national story that has gone horribly wrong?

Questions: What do you remember about the story of Jonah? How does seeing him in the light of racism and cultural prejudice surprise you?

Read Jonah chapter 4.

Jonah is furious that they repented and weren't destroyed. He wanted no mercy for them and once again tells God he would rather be dead than to see him show mercy and forgiveness to these people. God calls him out for his hard heartedness, and we never hear a thing about Jonah again.

Two words you need to know when talking about Jonah and Jesus: **Reconstitution** (the action of re-building something to wholeness) and **Recapitulation** (an action which summarizes and restates the main point).

Jesus just doesn't die for us, He also lives for us.

Read Matthew 8:23-27

Question: What similarities and contrasts do you see between Jesus and Jonah in this story?

Read Luke 8:38-39

The connection between Jesus and Jonah is there because God is in the business of re-writing broken histories in Jesus.

CHALLENGE: Which Kingdom are you participating in: the kingdom that is perishing, or the kingdom that is coming? What does the difference look like in your life?

Do it now as it should have been done. The size of the blessing must be greater than the size of the injustice.

Resources

“The Great Dance” by C. Baxter Kruger

https://www.amazon.ca/dp/096454654X/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_ZJ8DHA4CE1T6WS24BD12