

# The Church of Jesus Christ

## Lessons for the church in Jonah

### Jonah Chapter 3:1 – 4:5 The Motives of the Heart Unveiled

#### Jonah Obeys (v. 1-4)

- You must have the gospel firmly in your heart so that you are not ministering out of a need to convince yourself of your competence or worth — but out of love.
- Tim Keller writes: “Christians are to see the earthly city as something to love and win. They are to win it by seeking its shalom (Jeremiah 29) and seeking to spread the city of God within it, and to battle the city of Satan within it.”

#### Nineveh Repents (v. 5-9)

- Nineveh responds because it is God’s word – not Jonah’s. This may be one of the worst gospel presentations in history; yet God uses it in an incredible way, and God can use you in your imperfect efforts.
- Nineveh knew God was not obligated to forgive them. Their only hope was mercy and grace.
- Jonah experiences God grace again in being protected in a city that could have brutally killed him.

#### God Relents (v. 10)

- God is just and takes sin seriously. God confronts Nineveh’s evil.
- God is ready to forgive and delights in showing mercy. Our heavenly Father loves even His enemies.

#### Jonah Reveals his heart (4:1-5)

- Jonah has forgotten (or perhaps never fully learned) that he is a sinner saved by grace.
- Jonah needs the city as much as the city needs him.
- God is committed to loving and working with Jonah. Jonah is unconditionally loved – that is the gospel. Jonah needs that gospel to sink into his heart that he would be transformed, and have the gospel impact all of his life.
- .How about you? Have you slipped out of your gospel identity? You have if you are bitter or angry and unforgiving.