



Part 3

**God's Heart is Eager
to Save His Enemies
and Our Enemies**

Jonah 1:1

The Lord gave this message to Jonah
son of Amittai:

Jonah 1:2

**“Go to the great city of Nineveh.
Announce my judgment against it
because I have seen how wicked its
people are.”**

Jonah 1:3a

But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish.

Jonah 1:3b

He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the Lord by sailing to Tarshish.

Jonah 3:1

Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time:

Jonah 3:2

“Go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you.”

Jonah 3:3

This time Jonah obeyed the Lord's command and went to Nineveh, a city so large that it took three days to see it all.

Jonah 3:4

On the day Jonah entered the city,
he shouted to the crowds: “Forty
days from now Nineveh will be
destroyed!”

Jonah 3:5

The people of Nineveh believed God's message, and from the greatest to the least, they declared a fast and put on burlap to show their sorrow.

Jonah 3:6

When the king of Nineveh heard what Jonah was saying, he stepped down from his throne and took off his royal robes. He dressed himself in burlap and sat on a heap of ashes.

Jonah 3:7

Then the king and his nobles sent this decree throughout the city: “No one, not even the animals from your herds and flocks, may eat or drink anything at all.

Jonah 3:8

People and animals alike must wear garments of mourning, and everyone must pray earnestly to God. They must turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence.

Jonah 3:9

Who can tell? Perhaps even yet God will change his mind and hold back his fierce anger from destroying us.”

Jonah 3:10

When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened.

Jonah 4:1

But to Jonah this change of plans seemed very wrong, and he became very angry.

Jonah 4:2a

So he complained to the Lord about it: “Didn’t I say before I left home that you would do this, Lord? That is why I ran away to Tarshish!

Jonah 4:2b

I knew that you are a merciful and
compassionate God, slow to get
angry and filled with unfailing love.

You are eager to turn back from
destroying people.

Jonah 4:3

Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”



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Principle #1

God's heart and intention behind every pronouncement of judgement is to give people a chance to repent and be saved.

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Principle #2

Too many Christians miss the Father's heart, because we would rather be prophets of doom than be messengers of hope.

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Principle #3

God's heart is merciful, compassionate, slow to anger, filled with unfailing love, and eager to turn back from destroying people.

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Principle #3

God's heart is merciful, compassionate, slow to anger, filled with unfailing love, and eager to turn back from destroying people.

Principle #4

**You cannot give away
what you do not have.**

Unless you have had a profound encounter with God's supernatural forgiveness for you and unless you are constantly and consistently experiencing and receiving it, it will be impossible for you to genuinely forgive others with God's love.

Principle #4

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what you do not have.**

Principle #5

**When left unattended,
even the heart of a once committed
Christian is prone to stray
from the Father's heart.**

2 Kings 14:23

Jeroboam II, the son of Jehoash, began to rule over Israel in the fifteenth year of King Amaziah's reign in Judah. He reigned in Samaria forty-one years.

2 Kings 14:24

He did what was evil in the Lord's sight. He refused to turn from the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had led Israel to commit.

2 Kings 14:25

Jeroboam II recovered the territories of Israel between Lebo-hamath and the Dead Sea, just as the Lord, the God of Israel, had promised through Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath-hepher.

While no Christian in their right mind would ever say it, through our actions, many of us demonstrate that we think God's grace has gone too far, and so we withdraw from participating in His foolishness.

Principle #5

**When left unattended,
even the heart of a once committed
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Principle #6

Too many Christians miss the Father's heart when we abstain from our Master's command to witness in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.

Principle #7

**God's merciful, compassionate,
and irrational love has always
had an eternal ripple effect on
families, generations, and
the Kingdom of God.**

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