

SECOND CHANCES

Jonah • June 6, 2010 • Mike Newman, Senior Pastor

CHARACTER LESSONS

May 30, 2010	Esther – “Make The Most of Life’s Circumstances”
June 6, 2010.....	Jonah – “Second Chances”
June 13, 2010	Ruth – “Keys to a Great Friendship”
June 20, 2010	Youth Choir Presentation
June 27, 2010	Aaron – “We Need Each Other”
July 4, 2010	July 4 th Choir Presentation
July 11, 2010	Elijah – “How To Be Bold for God”

We encourage you to read the book of Ruth (Old Testament) this week in preparation for next Sunday’s message.

Jonah 2:1-4:11 (NLT) ¹ Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from inside the fish. ² He said, “I cried out to the LORD in my great trouble, and he answered me. I called to you from the land of the dead, and LORD, you heard me! ³ You threw me into the ocean depths, and I sank down to the heart of the sea. The mighty waters engulfed me; I was buried beneath your wild and stormy waves. ⁴ Then I said, ‘O LORD, you have driven me from your presence. Yet I will look once more toward your holy Temple.’ ⁵ “I sank beneath the waves, and the waters closed over me. Seaweed wrapped itself around my head. ⁶ I sank down to the very roots of the mountains. I was imprisoned in the earth, whose gates lock shut forever. But you, O LORD my God, snatched me from the jaws of death! ⁷ **As my life was slipping away, I remembered the LORD.** And my earnest prayer went out to you in your holy Temple. ⁸ Those who worship false gods turn their backs on all God’s mercies. ⁹ But I will offer sacrifices to you with songs of praise, and I will fulfill all my vows. For my salvation comes from the LORD alone.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD ordered the fish to spit Jonah out onto the beach.

¹ Then the LORD spoke to Jonah a second time: ² “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you.” 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. ⁴ On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: “Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!” 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. 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. 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. 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. ⁹ Who can tell? Perhaps even yet God will change his mind and hold back his fierce anger from destroying us.” 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.

Four Lessons:

1) God wants everyone to have a relationship with Him regardless of _____ or what they have done.

- See Romans 9:22 and Matthew 9:12

God wants us to look at people the same way He looks at them!

2) Our thoughts and God’s thoughts are _____.

- See Isaiah 55:8-9 and Psalm 145:17

God’s ways are always right and best even when we don’t understand them.

3) People who turn their back on God often have to _____ before they start doing what is right again.

- See Jonah 2:7

If you are running away from God, the sooner you get back on track the better.

¹ This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. ² 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! 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. ³ Just kill me now, LORD! I'd rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen." ⁴ The LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry about this?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out to the east side of the city and made a shelter to sit under as he waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ And the LORD God arranged for a leafy plant to grow there, and soon it spread its broad leaves over Jonah's head, shading him from the sun. This eased his discomfort, and Jonah was very grateful for the plant. ⁷ But God also arranged for a worm! The next morning at dawn the worm ate through the stem of the plant so that it withered away. ⁸ And as the sun grew hot, God arranged for a scorching east wind to blow on Jonah. The sun beat down on his head until he grew faint and wished to die. "Death is certainly better than living like this!" he exclaimed. ⁹ Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry because the plant died?" "Yes," Jonah retorted, "even angry enough to die!" ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, "You feel sorry about the plant, though you did nothing to put it there. It came quickly and died quickly. ¹¹ But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness, not to mention all the animals. Shouldn't I feel sorry for such a great city?"

Romans 9:22 (NLT) ²²In the same way, even though God has the right to show his anger and his power, he is very patient with those on whom his anger falls, who are destined for destruction.

Matthew 9:12 (NLT) ¹²When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do."

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT) ⁸"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. ⁹For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

Psalms 145:17 (NLT) ¹⁷The Lord is righteous in everything he does; he is filled with kindness.

4) God is a God of _____

*Jonah got a second chance
and so did the people of Nineveh.*

*What do you need to do
in response to today's message?*

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the pastors or elders following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office at 717-762-7147 to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website:

www.otterbeinchurch.org