

Lessons in Mercy
Jonah: God's Amazing Mercy, part 4
Pastor Craig Ferguson

Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time. *Jonah 3:1 (NLT)*

What we learn about God in Jonah (chapter three)

1. God regularly offers new beginnings

Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time: 'Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you.' 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 3:1-3

(NLT)

2. God progressively reveals his will (oftentimes)

Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time: 'Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you.' 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 3:1-3

(NLT)

3. God angrily responds to injustice but mercifully to repentance

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

Jonah 3:4 (NLT)

What sorrow awaits Nineveh, the city of murder and lies! She is crammed with wealth and is never without victims.

Nahum

3:1 (NLT)

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

Jonah 3:8-9 (NLT)

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. 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 3:5-6 (NLT)

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

3:10 (NLT)