

Pastor Dave Rohde

For Sunday, February 5th "The God of Second Chances"

Luke 11:29-36 – *NIV*

²⁹ As the crowds increased, Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It asks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. ³⁰ For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation. ³¹ The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom; and now something greater than Solomon is here. ³² The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and now something greater than Jonah is here.

³³ "No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light. ³⁴ Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness. ³⁵ See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness. ³⁶ Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you."

Jonah 3:6-10 – *NIV*

⁶ When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

"By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸ But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

Takeaway: When we respond to what God is doing with repentant hearts, we see how grace changes everything.

Questions:

1. Share about a time you were given a second chance. How did it make you feel?
2. What is the equivalent to fasting and “putting on sackcloth” in today’s world? How might the action be reflected in cultures other than our own?
3. Think of an example, other than this one, where an entire group of people repented. How might that look today?
4. Reflect on the concept of God relenting or “changing his mind” (Jonah 3:10). What does the change say about the character of God? What does it say about repentance?

Sermons: <https://podcast.wpcwestlake.org/services/mp3/sermon20230205.mp3>

Service Video: <https://youtu.be/ZyIp7cMvQf4>