

HOPE SABBATH SCHOOL

Major Lessons from Minor Prophets – Part 6

Eager to Forgive (Jonah)

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies entitled Seek the LORD and Live! –Major Lessons from Minor Prophets. Our topic today: Eager to Forgive (Jonah- 8th century BC, northern kingdom of Israel)

Scripture Song: “Seek the LORD while He may be found” – Isaiah 55:6-7

Prayer

Intro: The story of Jonah and the great fish is probably one of the best-known narratives in the whole Bible, but many are ignorant about the vital lesson his book contains.

- 1) The LORD desires to reach out to the people of Ninevah
 - a) Jonah 1:1-2
 - b) Nahum 3:1-4 (a century later)
 - c) Does it surprise you that the LORD would reach out to the inhabitants of such a wicked city? Why, or why not?
- 2) Jonah attempts to run from God
 - a) Jonah 1:3
 - b) Psalm 139:1-12 nowhere to hide
 - i) Is that good news or bad news?

- c) Have you ever tried to run from God? How did things go for you?
- 3) The LORD reaches out to his wayward prophet
 - a) Jonah 1:4-17
 - b) What lesson do you learn about God from His treatment of his wayward prophet?
 - c) How does this relate to the theme of the entire book?
- 4) Jonah reaches out to the LORD
 - a) Jonah 2:1-9
 - b) What impresses you about Jonah’s prayer?
 - c) Share a time when you prayed a similar prayer.
- 5) God gives his wayward prophet a second chance
 - a) Jonah 2:10-3:4
 - b) Why did Jonah obey this time? Out of fear?
 - c) Did Jonah expect the people of Ninevah to repent?
 - d) The Hebrew word translated Ninevah shall be “overthrown” can also be translated “turned” (Ex 7:17,20) or “transformed” (1 Sam 10:6). Who determined the final outcome?
- 6) The people of Ninevah reach out to God
 - a) Jonah 3:5-9
 - b) Is such a dramatic movement of repentance possible today in our great cities around the world?
- 7) Differing reactions to heartfelt repentance
 - a) From the LORD: Jonah 3:10, 4:11
 - b) From Jonah: Jonah 4:1-3 Why this reaction?
 - c) What is your reaction when people repent?
- 8) Share an “impossible situation” where someone repented and turned to God.