

“Groundhog Day”

Jonah 3

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / August 1, 2021

I. You need to know that our God delights in giving “second chances!”

A. God gives “second chances” to those that are His.

Jonah 3:1 “Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah **the second time**...”

God would’ve been perfectly justified in never using Jonah again as a prophet because of his high-handed rebellion and disobedience, but He commissions him again.

B. God gives “second chances” to those that are lost.

Jonah 3:4 “Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, ‘**Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!**’”

God would’ve been perfectly right in judging the Ninevites for their idolatry and high-handed sins against God and people, but He gives them a chance to repent.

II. Don’t believe the lie that “God always gives ‘second chances.’”

Numbers 11:33-34 “While the meat was yet between their teeth, before it was consumed, the anger of the Lord was kindled against the people, and the Lord struck down the people with a very great plague. ³⁴ Therefore the name of that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had the craving.”

Acts 5:4-6, 9-10 “‘...Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.’ ⁵ When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last... ⁶ The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him... ⁹ But Peter said to her, ‘How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.’ ¹⁰ Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.”

Deuteronomy 32:35 “Vengeance is Mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly.”

4 Problems with “2nd Chance Theology” (2CT)

1. 2CT implies an **overwhelming amount of pressure** to not mess up.
“It’s up to me to finally get it right. I better try my best, and I hope it’s good enough.”
2. 2CT offers **no peace or assurance** because it’s still up to you to not mess this up again.
“This might be all there is, so you better not mess this up.”
3. 2CT falls short because, in reality, we know **we need far more than two chances**.
“I’m glad I get more than one chance, but I’m also kinda nervous to only have two.”
4. 2CT assumes **there’s a limit** that is up to me not to hit, or I’m sunk.
“I hope I don’t strike out, and I really wish I knew what the count is.”

III. God offers His children something better than a second chance - a second life!

Philippians 2:12-13 “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

Ephesians 2:4-9 “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶ and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Romans 8:26-30 “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified.”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

- 1) Recall a time when God gave you a “second chance.”
- 2) God graciously gave Jonah another chance to obey. Read 1 Timothy 1:16. How has God displayed His “perfect patience” in your life?
- 3) Consider Matthew 18:21-22. How can you put God’s patience on display for others to see?
- 4) Are there areas in your life in which you presume upon future grace from God instead of seeking repentance now?
- 5) How does familiarity with God’s character encourage us to humbly look to Him for help in times of trouble?