

JONAH'S OBEDIENCE

As preached on Sunday, March 23rd

Read: Jonah 3:1-10

1. After his re-commissioning in vv.1-2, Jonah enters Nineveh. We're told he walks one day into a city that takes three days to "go through." What do you make of that? Did he do less than he was asked to do?
2. Jonah's message to the people was: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." What strikes you about that message? Do you think it was exactly what God asked him to say? Or can we see a bit of Jonah's reluctance in the brevity and negativity of his message?
3. What was the surprising response of the Ninevites in vv.5-9? How can their response serve as a reminder to us that we're never quite sure how open someone might be to God's grace?
4. Are you surprised at God's response in v.10? Why, or why not?
5. Take a moment to read Jeremiah 18:7-10. Which part could apply to Nineveh? Which part could apply to Jonah? Which part might apply to us today?
6. How would you define the Hebrew word *hapak*? What is its double-meaning in this story?
7. How can we ensure that our proclamation of God's message in this world is not that of angry prophets but that of dispensers of grace?