

Time to Change

Scripture used: [Jonah 3:1-5 \(NLT\)](#); [Jonah 3:10 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Today, Pastor Hurmon continued the series “Relentless Love” with the sermon “Time to Change”. He challenged us to consider the question, “What do I need to change?”, and to embrace this season to grow and be better. Pastor Hurmon provided us with two change-orientated observations, two key points, and four prayers that will help bring transformation.

KEY POINTS

- 1. Change-Orientated Observation #1: Shift from an “undo” focus to a “redo” focus.** Jonah was rescued and spit on the beach by a giant fish. As he lay on the beach in his shame, God provided Jonah with a “redo” moment. In [Jonah 3:1-5 \(NLT\)](#), God speaks to Jonah a second time telling him to go to Nineveh to deliver His message. Just like Jonah, we can’t go back in time and “undo” our mistakes; yet God in His grace, brings us to the same decision point so we can have a “redo.” When we find ourselves at the crossroads, we have the opportunity to redo our previous decisions. We can choose wisely by pre-planning and pre-deciding how we are going to react the next time we are faced with the same decisions. We can ask God for help in doing so. **PRAYER #1: Lord, teach me to recognize my redo moments and help me to choose wisely.**
- 2. Change-Orientated Observation #2: Changing my behavior is good; having a transformed heart is better.** In [Jonah 3:1-5 \(NLT\)](#) the people of Nineveh believed Jonah’s message, and they immediately went into mourning over their behavior. In [Jonah 3:10 \(NIV\)](#) the people of Nineveh turned from their evil ways. We should seek a similar change – not just in our behavior but in our hearts. **PRAYER #2: Lord, change my heart.**
- 3. Don’t allow broken people to stop our progress towards transformation.** Jonah obeyed God by going to Nineveh, but [Jonah 4:1-3 \(NLT\)](#) explains that Jonah was a very reluctant preacher. He didn’t truly want the people of Nineveh to be saved. In fact, he told God this was the exact reason he didn’t go to Nineveh in the first place! Jonah knew God would relent and not destroy the people of Nineveh if they turned from their evil ways. Even though Jonah was not the most joyous and loving messenger, the people of Nineveh believed - not because of Jonah, but because of God. They turned towards God with the information they had and repented. God can use anyone to tell us His message - even someone we might consider an enemy. We shouldn’t focus on the messenger, but on the message God has sent. **PRAYER #3: Lord, enable me to hear and respond to Your word when You speak to me.**
- 4. God’s love is sometimes difficult to understand, but we benefit from it.** Jonah didn’t understand how God could love the people of Nineveh. The people of Nineveh were wicked just like the people we might read about in history or even see in the daily news. We might wonder how God can love such people. That is how Jonah felt. In [John 15:12-13](#) Jesus explained that God’s love is much greater than human love, and His followers are to love as He loves. Jesus died for every human. As with the people of Nineveh, God will go to great lengths to invite every human into a loving, grace-filled relationship with Him - even those that we have a difficult time loving. The good news is we benefit from God’s relentless love too. [Romans 5:8 \(NLT\)](#) tells us that while we were still sinners, God showed us His great love through Christ. **PRAYER #4: God, help me to love like You.**

DISCUSSION

- 1) HEAR** - Sometimes in life, we keep going around and around making the same poor decisions over and over. We are surprised when we keep getting the same results! In what area of your life is God asking you to be transformed? Pray and ask God to reveal how He wants you to be transformed in this season.
- 2) UNDERSTAND** - Sometimes we focus too much on the messenger and not the message. Think back over the past week. How might you have missed God’s word to you? In your busyness, did you miss any opportunities for a “redo”? Like Jonah, we struggle to understand God’s relentless love. And yet, we desperately need it. What are the ways you need to receive God’s love afresh in this season?
- 3) DO** - As you go about your week, how can you strive to actively love like God loves? You might be the instrument that God uses to be the source of His love to another person! How can you “lay down your life” for someone, or how is God calling you to serve others? Please join us next week, August 21, as Pastor Hurmon continues the series “Relentless Love.”