

**Read:** Jonah 3:1-10

## Sackcloth and Ashes

*“So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. For the Word came unto the king o Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.”* Jonah 3: 5-6

“You’ll serve thirty days in the county jail and pay a fine of \$1000”.  
was stunned when Judge Thompson lowered his gavel and pronounced the relatively harsh sentence. The young man before him had “thrown himself on the mercy of the court” and promised to never shoplift again. But Judge Thompson wasn’t buying it, telling the young man that “you’re just sorry you got caught.” Apparently Judge Thompson knew something I didn’t, as the young man had to appear in the same courtroom a few months later to receive an even harsher sentence.

Like the young man before Judge Thompson, the people of Nineveh had been “caught red-handed” in their sins. They were a vicious, corrupt people who relished their evil reputation. But unlike the young man before Judge Thompson, the king of Nineveh was truly repentant and lead a revival that stayed God’s hand of judgment. To Jonah’s dismay, the whole nation modeled true repentance, characterized by Godly sorrow, confession of sins and a “turning away” from their evil ways. Because they repented, God relented.

Jonah is usually given top billing in this story. But the true “star of the story” is God, whose loving character is put on full display. He loved the sinful people of Nineveh so much that he wouldn’t let Jonah dodge his assignment to preach to them, and when they repented, he forgave. Likewise, when we show true repentance, he is faithful and just to forgive, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Thank God for his love and mercy! -HVC

### Seeking the Hand of God

*Pray Today for ...*

*Healing* for COVID-19 Victims

*Strength* for Medical Workers

*Victims* of Social Injustice and Crime

*Financial* Casualties of COVID-19

(Unemployed and Underemployed)

*Schools*, Students and Educators

*Leaders* at Local and National Leaders

(Civil & Spiritual)

*Churches* (Role, Resources and Responsibilities)