

## Loving Mercy

### Scripture

“Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ‘Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.’ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey [in extent]. And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day’s walk. Then he cried out and said, ‘Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!’” (Jonah 3:1-4 NKJV)

### Commentary

Stop and think a moment about the words, “the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time.” What mercy our Lord has for His children. How many times have you refused to obey the clear commands of God, and have been show mercy? More than you can remember I am sure.

This does not give us license to sin, God forbid. However, it shows us part of God that we need to see. It gives us faith to continue the walk. Remember it is the goodness of God that leads us to repentance. “Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?” (Romans 2:4 NKJV)

How very important it is for God’s children to be thankful. We live and breathe because of God’s great mercy. Jonah received a second chance, and the people of Nineveh, also.

Where would we be if it were not for God’s mercy? As it is written, “For I [am] the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept [them]. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” Says the LORD of hosts. . . ” (Malachi 3:6-7 NKJV)

If you have been absent from God’s throne of Grace, return and He will return to you. You need not fear His reprisal. “The sacrifices of God [are] a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise.” (Psalms 51:17 NKJV)

Jonah repented and God gave him another chance; repent and you too will find peace in the arms of your Heavenly Father. However, “. . . if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.” (Hebrews 10:26-27 NKJV)