



## A Study of Jonah

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### Day 6: Jonah 3:1-4 - Spreading the Word

*Read 1 Peter 3:14-17.* Is it possible to suffer for doing good? What comfort does Peter provide here? What should we do in our hearts? What should we always be prepared to do? In what manner? For what purpose? What is the “better” suffering?

This passage from 1 Peter is, contextually, about persecution for our faith. Why is it important to be ready now, before you are persecuted for your faith, to give a reason for your hope?

*Read Matthew 18:15-22.* What is the Biblical model for dealing with sin within the fellowship of believers? What is the goal of this? (Look closely at verse 15) How often are we called to forgive?

Please note, this passage in Matthew is specifically for addressing believers in the body of Christ, not for dealing with nonbelievers and not for dealing with publicly taught false teaching.

*Read 2 Timothy 2:24-26.* How should those in leadership especially model for us all (thus, we all should be learning to do this as well!) how to correct our opponents? What is the goal of this?

*Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 2 Corinthians 2:5-8.* What situation were the Corinthians dealing with in 1 Corinthians? It appears that they have addressed this issue as Paul directed, but may have gone a little too far. According to 2 Corinthians 2, when the one caught in sin is repentant, what should our response, as the body of Christ be?

*Read 2 Corinthians 16:13-14.* What directions does Paul give here? In what manner are we to do these things?

There is a balance, ladies, of strength and love. We are not called to be scared and to cower in our fear, but we are not called to be sledgehammers of truth, either. As you spend time with God today, ask Him to help you be prepared to give an account for the hope that you have. If that is something that you aren't sure of, dig into His word and pray for His wisdom as you do so. Also, consider how you approach a brother or sister to address their sin. Are you approaching them with love and a heart broken for their separation from God, or are you approaching them with a desire to "be right"? What about when someone comes to you with a concern regarding your sin? What is your instant reaction? Ask God to help you to see where your pride might be playing into each of these situations and ask Him to change your heart and help you to have grace and compassion on all those around you. You cannot do this alone; trust in Him to provide the strength, grace, wisdom and everything else you need to glorify Him in all circumstances.