

### **Jonah 3 .1 - 5, 10 (NRSV)**

1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 2 ‘Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.’ 3 So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. 4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, ‘Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!’ 5 And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

### **Jonah 3 .1 - 5, 10 (The Message)**

1-2 Next, God spoke to Jonah a second time: “Up on your feet and on your way to the big city of Nineveh! Preach to them. They’re in a bad way and I can’t ignore it any longer.”

3 This time Jonah started off straight for Nineveh, obeying God’s orders to the letter.

Nineveh was a big city, very big—it took three days to walk across it.

4 Jonah entered the city, went one day’s walk and preached, “In forty days Nineveh will be smashed.”

5 The people of Nineveh listened, and trusted God. They proclaimed a citywide fast and dressed in burlap to show their repentance. Everyone did it—rich and poor, famous and obscure, leaders and followers.

10 God saw what they had done, that they had turned away from their evil lives. He did change his mind about them. What he said he would do to them he didn’t do.

**Psalm 62 .5 - 12 (NRSV)**

5 For God alone my soul waits in silence,  
for my hope is from him.  
6 He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.  
7 On God rests my deliverance  
and my honour;  
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.  
  
8 Trust in him at all times, O people;  
pour out your heart before him;  
God is a refuge for us.  
Selah  
  
9 Those of low estate are but a breath,  
those of high estate are a delusion;  
in the balances they go up;  
they are together lighter than a breath.  
10 Put no confidence in extortion,  
and set no vain hopes on robbery;  
if riches increase,  
do not set your heart on them.  
  
11 Once God has spoken;  
twice have I heard this:  
that power belongs to God,  
12 and steadfast love belongs to you,  
O Lord.  
For you repay to all  
according to their work.

**Psalm 62 .5 - 12 (The Message)**

5-6  
God, the one and only—  
I'll wait as long as he says.  
Everything I hope for comes from him,  
so why not?  
He's solid rock under my feet,  
breathing room for my soul,  
An impregnable castle:  
I'm set for life.  
7-8  
My help and glory are in God  
—granite-strength  
and safe-harbour-God—  
So trust him absolutely, people;  
lay your lives on the line for him.  
God is a safe place to be.  
9  
Man as such is smoke,  
woman as such, a mirage.  
Put them together, they're nothing;  
two times nothing is nothing.  
10  
And a windfall, if it comes—  
don't make too much of it.  
11  
God said this once and for all;  
how many times  
Have I heard it repeated?  
"Strength comes  
Straight from God."  
12  
Love to you, Lord God!  
You pay a fair wage for a good day's work!

## **1 Corinthians 7 .29 - 31 (NRSV)**

29 I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, 30 and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, 31 and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

## **Mark 1 .14 - 20 (NRSV)**

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15 and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19 As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

## **1 Corinthians 7 .29 - 31 (The Message)**

29-31 I do want to point out, friends, that time is of the essence. There is no time to waste, so don't complicate your lives unnecessarily. Keep it simple—in marriage, grief, joy, whatever. Even in ordinary things—your daily routines of shopping, and so on. Deal as sparingly as possible with the things the world thrusts on you. This world as you see it is on its way out.

## **Mark 1 .14 - 20 (The Message)**

14-15 After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee preaching the Message of God: "Time's up! God's kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message."

16-18 Passing along the beach of Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew net-fishing. Fishing was their regular work. Jesus said to them, "Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass." They didn't ask questions. They dropped their nets and followed.

19-20 A dozen yards or so down the beach, he saw the brothers James and John, Zebedee's sons. They were in the boat, mending their fishnets. Right off, he made the same offer. Immediately, they left their father Zebedee, the boat, and the hired hands, and followed.