



Daily Reflections

March 8, 2017

Scripture

Jonah 3: 1-10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time:
"Set out for the great city of Nineveh,
and announce to it the message that I will tell you."

So Jonah made ready and went to Nineveh,
according to the LORD's bidding.

Now Nineveh was an enormously large city;
it took three days to go through it.

Jonah began his journey through the city,
and had gone but a single day's walk announcing,
"Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed,"
when the people of Nineveh believed God;

they proclaimed a fast
and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth.
When the news reached the king of Nineveh,

he rose from his throne, laid aside his robe,
covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in the ashes.
Then he had this proclaimed throughout Nineveh
by decree of the king and his nobles:
"Neither man nor beast, neither cattle nor sheep,
shall taste anything;
they shall not eat, nor shall they drink water.
Man and beast shall be covered with sackcloth and call loudly to God;
every man shall turn from his evil way
and from the violence he has in hand.
Who knows, God may relent and forgive, and withhold his blazing wrath,
so that we shall not perish."
When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way,
he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them;
he did not carry it out.

Our Scripture Reflection

The very last thing Jonah wanted was for his bitterly despised enemies, the Ninevites, to be saved. With bitterness in his heart, he opened his lips to call them to repentance, and to his horror, they did! Those worthless, infant killing, blood thirsty Ninevites actually repented and then some. The King went so far as to order even the animals to show repentance! Isn't it amazing what God's Grace can do?

Food for your Journey

Hanging onto resentment is letting someone you despise live rent-free in your head.

--Ann Landers, *The Washington Post*, May 19, 1998.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Please cleanse my heart of all bitterness and hatred towards others. May I come to see them as You see them. Amen.