SERMON NOTES

SURPRISED BY GRACE – GOD'S RENTLESS PURSUIT OF REBELS "JUST AN ORDINARY JOE?" Pastor John Mackie

Jonah 3: 1-10

- 1. Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time:
- 2. "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."
- 3. Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city--a visit required three days.
- 4. On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned."
- 5. The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.
- 6. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust.
- 7. Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink.
- 8. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.
- 9. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."
- 10. When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

GOING DEEPER

JONAH PART THREE – "Just An Ordinary Joe?" (The Surprised by Grace Series)

 Read through Jonah chapter 3. List examples of God being gracious to Jonah and to the people of Nineveh.

 Jonah 3 begins with Jonah being given a second chance. Compare Jonah with Abraham (Genesis 12-25), Peter (John 18 and John 21) and David (2 Samuel 12 and Psalm 51). Do you believe that God really does use ordinary people who have made poor choices|mistakes| and who have sinful pasts?

• In Jonah 3 a seemingly unpopular message led to great repentance. What parts of the gospel message would seem unpopular|politically incorrect in our culture?

 God uses ordinary people. Why are we so caught up with the celebrity syndrome and has it trickled into Christian thinking, the church, and our lives? Read Mark 10:35-45 and Philippians 2:1-11