

LOVING THE ONES YOU HATE

The 2nd Chance: What To Do When Your Life Goes Under – Part 5

February 14, 2010

Jonah 3:1-3

1. THE PRINCIPLE: GOD LOVES ALL PEOPLE.

“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; ...and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” Genesis 12:2-3 (NIV)

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son...”
John 3:16 (NIV)*

“Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go all through the city.” Jonah 3:3 (NIV)

2. THE PROBLEM: PREJUDICE.

**Because Jonah was blinded by his prejudice,
he saw others...**

■ Physically not spiritually.

“When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!” II Corinthians 5:17 (LB)

■ Ethnically not personally.

“Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism.” Acts 10:34 (NIV)

“There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all Christians—you are one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28 (NLT)

■ Hatefully not mercifully.

“But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?” Jonah 4:11 (NIV)

3. THE PRESCRIPTION: HOW TO LOVE ALL PEOPLE.

A. Accept Everybody.

“Accept one another as Christ accepted you...” Romans 15:7 (NIV)

B. Appreciate Everybody.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also the interests of others.” Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

C. Affirm Everybody.

“Encourage one another and build each other up...” I Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)