



# *Daily Devotions*

*January 22, 2012, Epiphany 3*

**Day 1: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

This reading jumps in after the Lord spoke to Jonah for the first time and Jonah fled. Jonah fled God's command because he did not want God's grace to come to those he hated and felt did not deserve God's mercy. Who are the ones you think are beyond God's mercy? Who would you have a hard time letting God love? Also remember, God did not give up on Jonah either when he struggled to love others as God had loved him.

**Day 2: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

The people of Nineveh, great and small, repent, fast, and put on sack cloth. How do we respond to God's call to change our ways? Do we offer a quick, "I'm sorry" and move on? Or do we take seriously our sins and actively repent and seek to change? When was the last time you put on sack cloth?

**Day 3: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

Paul has just ended his directions for how we should live out our relationships, married or not, slave or master. In summary, Paul tells us the anticipation of the coming of the Lord should direct how we live each day. Like a bride and groom preparing for the wedding – every day they are closer to the big day and what they do or strive to get done is determined in relation to that day. So, how does Christ coming change your plans for today?

**Day 4: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

Let's make this simple. Every morning remind yourself you are one day closer to the Lord's coming. Now look at your calendar and decide what really needs to get done!

**Day 5: Mark 1:14-20**

John is arrested and Jesus goes back to Galilee. Jesus does not proclaiming the kingdom of God but he does know he needs time to share the message, so he seeks a safer place. We also need to proclaim the kingdom of God. We may not need to go faraway places to do so. Sometimes we need to go home.

**Day 6: Mark 1:14-20**

Jesus not only needs safety but also followers who will learn and carry on the message. So he calls, "Follow me." Note the call is to follow Jesus so that others might be reached! The disciples are not called to a special place, although they will often be confused on that, but to a special mission – Reach others!

**Day 7: Psalms 62:5-12**

God alone!? Is that our sole source of strength? Life? Hope? When we depend on others we will fail. Only the Lord can see us through today.