



7th July 2019

JONAH - Does God ever change His mind?

This is one of those questions that theologians love to discuss.

The argument goes like this...

If God is prone to changing His mind whenever He feels like it, then how can we take Him at His Word? Can we really trust a God who changes His mind? A God that we can't trust is a BIG problem!

BUT if God doesn't change His mind then how do we explain stories like Jonah? The King of Ninevah heard Jonah's proclamation of judgment and repented, hoping God would relent—change His mind. In fact God did relent regarding His judgment (3:10) and Jonah himself, says that he knew God would relent (4:2).

So can we trust a God who changes His mind?

I have great kids (at least I think so) but sometimes my kids don't do what I've asked them to do. In our house, we've always held to the principle that *"disobedience has consequences"*. So when the kids knowingly disobey they are expecting a certain outcome. BUT there's another principle that actually over-rules the first. That second principle is that *"genuine repentance brings forgiveness."* And sometimes, that forgiveness includes the removal of the consequences. So when I promise a consequence for disobedience but then I remove the consequence because of repentance, I haven't actually changed my mind. I've just applied a greater principle—that of forgiveness. And my kids trust me because they know there is a greater principle at work.

As Jonah said, Our God is *"gracious and compassionate... slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness"*. The people of Ninevah didn't experience an untrustworthy God who randomly changes His mind. They experienced a completely trustworthy God who has promised to always forgive the one who repents.

How could a just and holy God lavishly forgive the "willfully disobedient prophet of God" and the "blatantly wicked city of pagans?" The answer is simple, He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness.

The one who repents is always forgiven by God.

Henry Rouse

CREATE - After School Activity Club

Tuesday's 3.30-5.30pm

In recess for school holidays

LITTLE BUZZ PLAYGROUP

Thursday's 9.30-11am

In recess for school holidays

Winter WonderFULL Quiz Night

Friday August 9th, 7pm at PUC

\$10 adults / \$7 kids

Book tickets on:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BDVOP>

Or call the office on 7228 5300

Prayer for the North

Sunday July 7th

Hosted @ Playford Uniting Church

Starting at 6pm

Come along and pray for our churches and communities in the North.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sunday July 7th: Ryan Windle

All In Kids & Youth Service

Jonah 4 - God Saves & Jonah Sulks

Sunday July 14th: Henry Rouse

Passionate Pursuit ...

Sunday July 21st: Mike Hey

Acts 1:8 - Passionately Pursuing Others

Sunday July 28th: Henry Rouse

Passionately Pursuing Others

Sermon from June 23rd

By Pete Riggs


[*"Jonah 2: Jonah Prays & God Hears"*](#)

or go to <http://playford.ucasa.org.au/podcasts/>

We acknowledge that the land we meet on is the traditional lands for the Kurna people.

Playford Uniting Church

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A people **Awakened** by the Spirit, **Moving** in our Communities, **Cultivating** Hope and **Transforming** Futures.