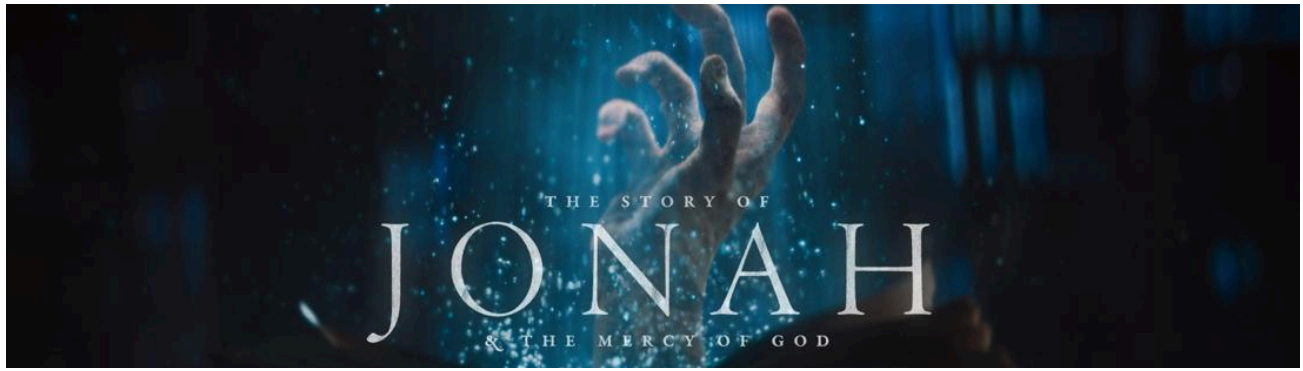




Jonah #2 – “When We Reach Rock Bottom”

And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Jonah 1:17

“Appointed” = Hebrew מָנָה [Maw-naw]= Provided [Use 4x]

“God Orchestrated A Circumstance In Order To Teach Jonah Something He Desperately Needed To Know.”

- Even Though Jonah Is Helpless – He Is Not HOPELESS
- Sometimes What We Call A PROBLEM, God Calls Provision

“God Doesn’t Always Give Us What We Want, He Gives Us What We Need - And What We Need Most In This Life Is Always Him”.

The Epicenter of Jonah’s Prayer

⁸Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of *steadfast love*.⁹

“Steadfast Love” = Hebrew = חַסֵּד [Hessed] = Grace

Crucial Truths In Understanding & Embracing God’s Grace

#1: We DESERVE God’s Judgment

I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of *Sheol* I cried and *you* heard my voice. For *you* cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all *your* breakers and *your* waves passed over me Jonah 2:2-3

2: We Are Spiritually HELPLESS

To the roots of the mountains I went down, to the land *whose bars closed upon me forever*. Jonah 2:6

#3: The Extremely High COST of Our Salvation

⁴ Then I said, ‘I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your *holy temple*....⁷ When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your *holy temple*. Jonah 2:4 & 7

⁸Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of *steadfast love*.⁹ But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. *Salvation belongs to the LORD!*” Jonah 2:1-9

Salvation = Hebrew יְשׁוּעָה [Yeshua] = JESUS

What Does True Repentance Look Like?

- Godly SORROW
- Honest CONFESSION
- Forsaking SIN
- Making RESTITUTION
- Turning to GOD

"Jonah Understood That Salvation Belongs To The Lord, But He Had Still To Learn That Salvation Is A Gift Of God's Sovereign Grace."

And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ JONAH 1:17-2:10

- Where do you feel far away from God in your life right now?
- How does Jonah's prayer from the fish show that God hears us even in our worst moments?
- Can you share a time when God showed grace to you even when you made sinful choice?
- Pastor Shaun spoke of 3 crucial truth in understanding & embracing God's grace: 1) *We Deserve God's Judgment.* 2) *We Are Spiritually Helpless* 3) *The Extremely High Cost of Our Salvation.* Which is the hardest for you to grasp? Why is understanding all three important?
- How does understanding God's grace towards you, change the way you respond to him?
- Jonah's repentance was only partial, as evidenced by his anger and frustration at God's mercy towards the Ninevites. Discuss the 5 aspect of true repentance and how these have played out in your life.
- What does it mean to look toward God's holy temple today?
- What is one step you can take this week to accept God's second chances?

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

- Do you only turn your attention back to God when every other escape route has completely collapsed?
- What "worthless idols" are you actively prioritizing that forfeit the very mercy and grace you expect to receive?
- Is your relationship with God transactional valued only when He rescues you, or transformational enough to praise Him before the rescue is complete?

SOURCE:

Timothy Keller "Rediscovering Jonah/The Parodical Prophet"

J.I. Packer "Knowing God"

Craig Groeschel "Jonah" Life Church Open Network

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