

Jonah: Reluctant Prophet, Relentless God
Week 2: The Praying Prophet
Jonah 1:17-2:10

Introduction:

- A. Have you ever found yourself someplace you didn't want to be?
- B. Jonah was a prophet of God called to go to the wicked city of Nineveh and preach against their evil. Instead Jonah boarded a ship heading 2500 miles in the opposite direction.
- C. Jonah may have thought his story was over the moment he hit the water, but little did he know, God was not done with him yet (1:17).

Jonah's Desperation (vs. 1-6)

- A. Up until this point in his story, Jonah had been trying to escape the presence of God. Now, in his desperation, Jonah finally did what he should have done all along. He cried out to God (vs. 1-2).
- B. Notice all the descriptions Jonah used to describe his despair (vs. 2-6).
- C. Jonah was in a place where he felt very helpless and even somewhat hopeless. Do you feel this way?
- D. As God's people, we should utilize prayer more than we do (Col. 4:2; Heb. 4:16).

Jonah's Declaration (vs. 3, 7-9)

- A. Jonah realized God was the one behind the great storm and the fish (v. 3). And in turn, Jonah came to realize his predicament was of his own doing. His running from God had led him to this point in his life.
- B. It takes Jonah finding himself in the belly of a fish before he remembered the Lord and voiced a prayer of repentance (vs. 7, 9).
- C. At that point in his life, Jonah had not be living and acting like a true prophet of God. He had been acting no differently than pagan people (v. 8).
- D. God hears us when we call out in our distress (vs. 2, 4, 7; Jer. 29:11-12; Psa. 145:8).

Jonah's Deliverance (v. 10)

- A. The fish God appointed was not God's punishment for Jonah, but his provision to save Jonah.
- B. God didn't give up on Jonah (1:4, 17; 2:10) and He doesn't want to give up on you either.
- C. Salvation is from God and He will go to great lengths to save people (Acts 4:12; 2 Pet. 3:9).

Conclusion:

- A. Jonah tried to run from God but found that you can never outrun God. Instead it's best to just make the choice to run to God and obey His will for your life.
- B. Have you been running from? Like Jonah, do you find yourself someplace you do not want to be?
- C. God saved Jonah from an impossible situation and He can save you from whatever impossible situation you find yourself in this morning. All you have to do his confess your sins and turn back to Him.