

God's Intervention

Jonah Chapter 2, Part IV

Okay, welcome back!

Today we will pick up in Chapter 2 of Jonah, after our review. Hopefully you are not only enjoying the lessons, but you are also learning about yourself --- about human nature and God's kindness and longsuffering. We barely tolerate people or situations that we do not agree with or that go against our wishes and desires. God, on the other hand, goes out of His way to draw us back to Him and He unleashes His love on us, sometimes through Divine intervention.

Jonah chapters 1 & 2

===Prayer===

Okay then, let's start with a question we have answered already.

- 1) Is Jonah an account of a literal, figurative or spiritual event?

Jesus lays aside all argument. ***Matthew 12:38-41***

Let's review:

1. Jonah runs from God's call.
2. Jonah refuses to help those he does not like.
3. Jonah thinks he got away.
4. Jonah's sin/disobedience directly affects the mariners.
5. Jonah confesses his sin.
6. The mariners accept Christ and make vows to God.

And so here we are in chapter 2!

Jonah 1:17 - 2:10

God's intervention in Jonah's life.

- 2) Has God ever intervened in your life?

God intervenes in many ways. How many of us say "I shouldn't be here...", etc.

In the recovery community there is a saying that goes, "*God will get your attention even if He has to send you to jail, the hospital, allow job loss, divorce, DUI, and now --- a fish --- buried alive...*"

Jesus said "Just as Jonah was in the belly of the fish."

Jonah's prayer came in the form of a Psalm.....

Jonah 2:1-2

- 3) Why do people wait until they are at rock bottom or until circumstances are beyond their power, strength or control, to call on God?

Really this is an opportunity for us all to consider where we are running from God and how far away we are from being swallowed by a fish. We don't have to wait for God's intervention. We can make different choices now. But will we? Will you?....

It is interesting because Jonah says "out of the belly of Sheol" and Ephesians says "of Jesus".

Ephesians 4:7-10

As in Jonah's case, usually it is our sin that requires God to intervene. God's intervention is not always comfortable. God has equipped you to be obedient, if you choose. Why is Jonah praying like this?

Jonah 2:3-6

4a) Have you ever felt this way?

4b) Do you feel this way now?

Jonah 2:7 ... When his soul fainted

We don't have to wait that long... *Don'tcha Know!*

Websters: Unleash: to free from or as if from a leash. Let loose.

God wants to unleash His power and love on your life.

Ephesians 1:7-8 'In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, '

Abound: active, moving forcefully toward...

God can unleash Divine discipline or Divine favor..... your choice.

Actually, either way, you are getting God's grace.

Jonah 2:8 Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own Mercy.

5) How are you trying to solve your problem using human strength?

God is wanting to unleash His love and compassion on you. Remember, this is a study of a book, so it is open-ended.

But, having said that... ***Jonah 2:7-10***

When Jonah recommitted and became willing to be obedient, God released him.

6) What needs to change for you to have peace?

Let's pray and recommit today.

