

Jonah - Running Towards God

Jonah Chapters 2 & 3

The Conditions of the Hearts:

Jonah runs from his enemies - God runs toward them.

Jonah seeks revenge - God seeks rescue.

Jonah has an exclusive spirit - God shows an inclusive spirit.

Jonah is set on self-protection - God is set on self-sacrifice.

Jonah: The man of Prayer

...sulfur bottom whale and whale shark are large enough and both without teeth. A sulfur bottom whale caught on the east coast in the 1930's, over 100 feet in length, that whale could swallow a horse.

C.S. Lewis: God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts to us in our pains: Crisis is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.

In the great fish, Jonah is hopeless with nowhere to turn but to God.

He learns a precious lesson - the lesson of God's goodness, power, and grace.

Grace: God giving us what we don't deserve. *God's unconditional love...*

Mercy: God not giving us what we do deserve.

Two signs of a heart being transformed by grace:

A lack of bigotry (in His love) and a lack of fear.

Jonah: The Messenger of God

- His appearance
- The brevity of his message (only 5 words in Hebrew & 8 in English)
- The Warning - forty days is a declaration of a time of testing/preparation.
- The Judgement: Overturned can have a tone of judgement or repentance.

The Response of Nineveh:

What happened in Nineveh represents the largest revival in world history.

...over half a million were saved in 40 days.

...When God prepares someone's heart for the truth of the Gospel, a short message of grace is all it takes.