

God is Compassionate

Even to his Selfishly Reluctant Prophet

Study of Jonah (Week 2)

Jonah 4:2

Jonah & the Big Fish

- “The surprising truth of the Bible is not so much that a big fish can swallow a man but that wicked people can be moved by God’s word to repent & that God’s mercy is available to anyone who believes – even those with blood on their hands.” (page 50)

JONAH

- Prophet to Northern Kingdom during King Jeroboam II
- Got to deliver good news to Israel
- Gets to deliver news to Nineveh – enemy city of Israel

JONAH'S UPS & DOWNS

- Jonah told to ARISE by the LORD (1:2)
- Jonah goes DOWN(1:3-5)
- Admonished by pagan captain to ARISE (1:6)
- Jonah goes DOWN (1:12)
- “went DOWN to the land...” (2:6)
- “You brought UP my life from the pit” (2:6)
- Jonah told to ARISE by the LORD 2nd time (3:1)

Why did Jonah Run?

- *It's not so much what Jonah knew about Nineveh that made him run in the other direction. It's what he knew about God. (page 46)*
- Jonah 4:2



Jonah is Angry

- “Salvation belongs to the LORD!”
- Jonah thankful when his own life is saved or his people but gets angry when that same salvation is extended towards those who he thinks does not deserve it.
- *When God interrupts your life, you may find that your comfort is more important & your obedience more conditional than you thought. That’s how it was with Jonah. God’s call exposed a thinly-veiled selfishness beneath the surface of the prophet’s life.* Colin Smith

Lord, make me less like Jonah & more like Jesus

- *Create in me a heart that quickly & gladly says yes to you!*
- *My heart is full of my own prejudices & preferences. Give me a heart to love even my enemies as you do.*
- *Make me willing to go wherever you send me, willing to be mistreated for your gospel. Allow me the joy of sharing in the fellowship of the suffering of Jesus.*
- *I'm ashamed of my lack of compassion for those around me, & I seem to have no power to work it up in myself. As I get involved in the lives of others instead of retreating to a holy huddle, will you cause your compassion to overflow in me & through me.*
- *Give me insight into my anger as well as into my joy so that I can hate what you hate & love what you love.*
- *Keep me from becoming a cold-hearted, moralistic person. Break my heart like your heart is broken for those who are perishing. Give me tears in my eyes like the tears in your eyes. May my life be a sign pointing people to you, instilling hope that you will show them the same mercy you have shown to me.*