

Compassionate God

Lesson 3

Jonah 1:17-2:10

August 1, 2021

God's Redeeming Compassion

Introduction

Jonah was a perfect example of the stubborn rebellion of the Israelites. Like the Israelites, Jonah was disobedient in obeying God's order. Like the Israelites, Jonah refused to carry out the task that was given him. Like the Israelites, Jonah called to God to be saved without really meaning it. And just like the Israelites, Jonah appeared to be righteous—he used the right words and went through the right actions but didn't have any sincerity.

We could claim that not only is Jonah a parallel for the Israelites, but also a parallel for us. God calls us to action, and we ignore His call. We may even actively rebel against what God is asking us to do. We focus our energies on everything else, and when our lives get unbearable or when we come across a problem we just can't see a way out of, THEN we call on God. It is at that point we finally recognize that we are helpless, and we need God to intervene. Like Jonah, we cry out for help and acknowledge that our salvation can only come from God. Maybe it's time we quit acting like Jonah and develop a deeper relationship with God, giving Him control all of the time and living in obedience to Him.

Memory verse: "To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, Lord my God, brought my life up from the pit."—Jonah 2:6

Pray and read Jonah 1:17-2:10. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. How long was Jonah in the fish? (Jonah 1:17)
2. What did Jonah do while in the fish? (Jonah 2:1)
3. What was Jonah's state of mind when he called to the Lord? (Jonah 2:2)
4. What did Jonah say? (Jonah 2:4)
5. What did the Lord do for Jonah? (Jonah 2:6)
6. What did Jonah remember? What did he do then? (Jonah 2:7)
7. What will Jonah do? (Jonah 2:9)
8. What did God do for Jonah? (Jonah 2:10)

What does the passage mean?

1. What can we learn about superficial spirituality from Jonah? (Jonah 2:8; Mark 4:16-17; Luke 6:49; James 3:15-16)

2. God saved Jonah from the belly of the fish to save the Ninevites (Jonah 2:10). What can we learn from Jonah about who God desires to save? (Ezekiel 18:32; Jonah 2:9; Mark 2:17; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9)

3. What do we learn about God through the second chance he gives Jonah? (Isaiah 30:18; Psalm 86:15; Lamentation 3:22-23; Romans 5:6-9; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

4. What can we learn from Jonah's prayer? (1 Samuel 12:21; Psalm 37:39-40, 50:14-15; Hebrews 2:18)

Applying the passage

1. Are you shallow in your spirituality? What keeps you from developing a deep relationship with God?

2. Do you fall into the judgment of others as Jonah did with the Ninevites? Write a prayer asking God to help you see people with His love.

3. Do you believe that God is loving and compassionate? What keeps you from resting in that knowledge?