



# JONAH

## A DESPERATE PRAYER.

Things can't get much more dire than where we find Jonah this week: stuck in the belly of a fish. Fish already smell pretty awful - imagine being inside one. But while this is not an ideal situation, it is here where Jonah realizes that he should really be dead. By being in this fish, his life has in fact been saved - and it is with this realization that Jonah cries out to God. Yes, it took Jonah being swallowed by a fish to realize he needed to follow God.

But are we much better? What kind of situations does God have to get us in before we will realize that we need Him? It may be that the greatest cause of our suffering is not the bad things that happen to us, but that we are living in rebellion against God... What will it take to get you to turn to God today?

## IN THE BIBLE.

### **Jonah 1:17-2:10**

Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. He said:

“In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry. You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. I said, ‘I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.’ The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. 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.

“When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.

“Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them. But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the Lord.’”

And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

### **Romans 8:35-39**

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# QUESTIONS.

- 1.) Have you ever had a “belly of a fish” experience where it took something extreme for you to finally listen and obey God? What happened?
- 2.) What are you prone to turn to besides God?
- 3.) How do you decipher when God is speaking to you vs. someone/something else?
- 4.) How do you/can you invest in your relationship with God better this week?

**Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:**

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?