

Jonah's Prayer  
Jonah 2  
November 9

The Lord Listens

The Entanglements of Sin

New Life & Remembering the Lord

Brian Estelle comments:

God is a judge; even so, God is merciful to those who call upon his name. When we arrive at the end of verse 6, we have come to the psychological center of the poem. Jonah's waywardness and rebellion have brought him low; God's faithfulness will raise him up.

Although Jonah declares that God has brought him up, it seems that he is about ready to lose hope. The NIV translates verse 7a, "When my life was ebbing away, I remembered

you, LORD." The idiom here is the spirit or soul curling in on itself. The particular words used together to express this idea show that Jonah is about ready to lose hope. Jonah is humbled. The sacrifice that God delights in most is a broken spirit. As another psalmist had stated similarly in other circumstances, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise" (Ps. 51:17). Jonah's humility reveals a spirit cleared of self-righteous justification.<sup>1</sup>

## Pledge to Obey

## Glorious Affirmation

Fuerguson's comments are quite instructive here:

'Salvation belongs to the LORD', Jonah declared (*Jon. 2:9*). In itself, an innocent enough remark, and altogether orthodox in its theology. But now it was charged with the meaning gained from personal experience. He could hardly have failed to have given this same testimony before; certainly not if he had any acquaintance with the great prophet Elisha whose very name meant '*God is Saviour*'! But in the dark no-man's land where Jonah had been, this had begun to take on a new meaning, or at least had come home to him with new power.

Writers in the past used to make a distinction, between *the knowledge of the truth* and *the knowledge of the power of the truth*. That was exactly the distinction Jonah had learned. He had already known these truths about God, and obviously in some way had experienced God at work in his life. But now he had come to know God. In the darkness the light had dawned that the ultimate truth about God was not that he was Israel's God, or Jonah's God; nor was it that he was a God who had spoken to the fathers. The ultimate

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<sup>1</sup> Brian Estelle, *Salvation through Judgment and Mercy, The Gospel According to Jonah*, P&R, 2005, p96

truth about God, which he now felt so mightily in his own soul, was that *God is a saving God*. When Jonah learned that, he was ready to go to Nineveh. Now he was ready for the word of the Lord to come to him 'a second time'<sup>2</sup>

## Home Study Guide

**Monday:** Read Jonah 2 Review your sermon notes. What did Jonah come to realize while in the sea creature?

**Tuesday:** Proverbs 1 Can we abuse God forever and always get away with it? Why/why not?

**Wednesday:** Heb 13 What is a sacrifice of praise?

### Sunday's Sermon will Be "Jonah's Ministry" Jonah 3

**Thursday:** Luke 13 Why is a message of repentance important?

**Friday:** Nahum 1. Nahum prophesied about 150 years after Jonah. What had happened to Nineveh during that time?

**Saturday:** Nahum 2 & 3 What would be the end result of their rebellion?

**Memory: Jonah 3:9-10**

***Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish." When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.***

## Prayer Items:

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<sup>2</sup> Sinclair Ferguson, Man Overboard, Banner of Truth, 2014, p46

## Family Catechism Study

[Westminster Shorter Catechism]

**Q. 63. Which is the fifth commandment?**

A. The fifth commandment is, “Honour thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”

Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16

**Q. 64. What is required in the fifth commandment?**

A. The fifth commandment requireth the preserving the honor, and performing the duties, belonging to everyone in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, or equals. Rom. 13:1, 7; Eph. 5:21-24; 6:1-9; 1 Pet. 2:17

Here we find the basic command for a very broad view of relationships. These issues of honor and respect must be learned in the basic family unit or real trouble normally lies ahead. When honor and respect begin to fall apart whole civilizations are at high risk. In the old 50's song “Charlie Brown” Charlie was considered outrageous for throwing spitballs and calling the English teacher “Daddy.” In contrast with the difficulties faced in today's youth culture, however, he seems peaceful and placid. The seeds of disrespect in calling the teacher “Daddy” do, as our experience has shown, grow up into the dire consequences of guns in school, murder, rape, and various forms of decadent and defiant sub-cultures.

We need to heed this commandment, now more than ever. For the sake of Christ and his kingdom, we, as his children, must show more respect to those around us whether they be superiors, equals or inferiors. This is especially true in the family. Often our homes are hot beds of disrespect and it bears fruit in the general culture. Teaching respect and honor in a respectful and honorable way is a must in a Christian home. Often we err by demanding respect in a demeaning or patronizing way; this does nothing but breed contempt and disrespect. Show respect, for it is better caught than taught.

Kids, on the other hand, have no excuse simply because a parent or other superior is rude or disrespectful. You owe respect - God says so! Train yourself to give it even though it does not seem to be deserved. Honor and respect do not mean capitulating to every desire of a superior. Scripture also says you must obey God rather than men.

Jesus respected his Father and went to the Cross for us, profound disrespecters! So out of gratitude to him, let us show respect, especially in the family!