

## **Turning Back to God**

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

*“Out of mercy the Lord allowed Jonah to get to the point of fainting..., when his life was ebbing away and he was about to lose consciousness, so that the prophet could desire Him more than life itself... He finds us, and we search for Him because He has already found us. He brings us to the place where we admit we have no other hope but Him and no possibility of making it through a self-imposed major crisis unless He intervenes. He allows us to discover the gift of the darkness, death to self-willingness, before He resurrects us out of our tomb. God did not heal Jonah’s spiritual sickness before the prophet realized how sick he was.” Ogilvie*

- I. The subject of 1:17 is not the great fish but the Lord and what he did to get Jonah back on the right path of righteousness. God intervened in the life of his child in a miraculous way to save him from the devastating consequences of his sin. Likewise, he miraculously intervened in our lives to save us to from the consequences of our sin so that we could be his for eternity. Our salvation is a miracle performed by God! Like all miracles, it is not to be treated lightly.

Jonah 1:17

***Ephesians 2:8-9*** <sup>8</sup>*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-* <sup>9</sup>*not by works, so that no one can boast.*

- II. God’s intervention in Jonah’s life came when he brought him to a point of brokenness. God made sure that Jonah felt completely helpless without his mercy, so that he would turn to him to receive grace and mercy in his time of need.

Jonah 2:1-10

Heb. 4:14-16

- A. In his brokenness, Jonah cried out to the Lord to deliver him from the hell that he had made for himself. Jonah knew God, and he knew that he is a merciful and gracious God who does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. He knew that he could cry out to him despite his sin and that God would forgive him.

Jonah 2:1-2

*Psalm 103:8-12*<sup>8</sup> *The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love (hesed).*<sup>9</sup> *He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;*<sup>10</sup> *he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.*<sup>11</sup> *For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;*<sup>12</sup> *as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

**1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

- B. In his brokenness, Jonah knew that God had disciplined him for his own good (Heb. 12:5-6). He knew that the Lord brought him to the point of no escape, and instead of getting more rebellious, he surrendered his will to God with gratitude. He was grateful that God had intervened to keep him from causing himself even more harm.

Jonah 2:3-7

Ps. 51:1-10

- C. In his brokenness, Jonah realized that his attitude was a worthless idol that he had created and worshipped more than God himself. He also realized that the result of clinging to the worthless deceit of an idol forfeited the working of God's mercy (**hesed**) in his life.

Jonah 2:8

*"An idol is anything that takes the place of God. So Jonah is saying that whenever a believer puts something else in the place of God and thereby turns from him, he inevitably also turns from God's mercy. God is not less merciful, but the believer has rejected that mercy and therefore deserves all that comes on him." Boice*

- D. In his brokenness, Jonah understood that God taught him the value of mercy. It moved him to re-dedicate his life to the Lord with a willingness to show the same kind of mercy to those who don't deserve it. True repentance always brings spiritual renewal and an excitement for the will of God.

Jonah 2:9-10