

HELP! Jonah 2 November 19, 2023

Introduction: what do people do when help is needed? We call for help. Who do we call?
Heart Attack

Review Jonah 1: prophet to Israel; and Ninevah (Assyria); God – go; Jonah – no; storm/fish.

The applications: 1) What is our response to God’s clear instruction? 2) Are we willing to allow circumstances we face to show God’s work in our lives? 3) Can we trust God for every challenge we face?

Chapter 2

Vss. 1-6 Recognize your current reality/ your present condition.

1 From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. [change of relationship]

2 He said: “In my distress [NKJV affliction] I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead [Sheol/grave] I called for help, and you listened to my cry.

Almost directly quoting the Psalms!

Psalm 120.1 I call on the LORD in my distress, and he answers me.

James 5:13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray.

Psalm 139:2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. 3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. 4 Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely. [How is God able to hear?] [Not only hears, but listens]

3 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. [desperation]

Psalm 42:7 Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me.

4 I said, ‘I have been banished from your sight [what I wanted]; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.’ [Daniel edict to pray]

Psalm 31:22 In my alarm I said, “I am cut off from your sight!” Yet you heard my cry for mercy when I called to you for help.

5 The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head.

Psalm 69:1 Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

6 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.

Psalm 71:20 Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up.

Jonah's present reality: I've sinned, I deserve what I'm getting. **How about your present reality?** "I'm better than I deserve," Our only cry is for your mercy. What do others say about your present reality? Do your prayers reflect what you truly need?

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Vss. 7 Remember what you believe.

7 "When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. [because you brought my life up from the pit] [What do you remember about God, his character, his works, his love, his grace, his holiness (holy temple)? And how about all his promises? How do we develop a good memory about God? Spending time in His word/letting his word dwell in us richly. Satan, the accuser, is always hoping that we forget who our God is!

Psalm 142:3 When my spirit grows faint within me, it is you who watch over my way.

Vss. 8-9 Repent/change direction.

8 "Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them. [Our worthless idols?]

Psalm 31:6 I hate those who cling to worthless idols; as for me, I trust in the LORD.

9 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.' " [the message to himself and the Ninevites and to us]

Psalm 116:17-18 I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the LORD. I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

Vs. 10 God's response

10 And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land. [really?]

Matthew 12:38 Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you." 39 He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Two examples: Manasseh and Brett

2 Chronicles 33 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. ² He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the detestable practices

of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites. ³ He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had demolished; he also erected altars to the Baals and made Asherah poles. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshipped them. ⁴ He built altars in the temple of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "My Name will remain in Jerusalem forever." ⁵ In both courts of the temple of the LORD, he built altars to all the starry hosts. ⁶ He sacrificed his children in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, practiced divination and witchcraft, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, arousing his anger.

⁷ He took the image he had made and put it in God's temple, of which God had said to David and to his son Solomon, "In this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my Name forever. ⁸ I will not again make the feet of the Israelites leave the land I assigned to your ancestors, if only they will be careful to do everything I commanded them concerning all the laws, decrees and regulations given through Moses." ⁹ But Manasseh led Judah and the people of Jerusalem astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites.

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. ¹¹ So the LORD brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon. ¹² In his distress he sought the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his ancestors. ¹³ And when he prayed to him, the LORD was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD is God.

Brett, including 2 pics.

What did we learn from this text?

**When we need help, the first thing we do is pray,
taking stock of our current situation.**

**Then we remember who our God is and
trust him for the strength we need to change.**

And then watch what God will do!