

RESPONDING TO GOD

Jonah – Part 2

ON TV: There's a little bit of Jonah in all of us.

ON TV/OUTLINE: "1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: 2 'Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.'" Jonah 1:1-2

ON TV: Delayed obedience is really **disobedience**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: "But the Lord provided a great fish to swallow Jonah and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights." Jonah 1:17

ON TV: Jonah's worst nightmare as exactly what he **needed**.

ON TV: The book isn't about Jonah. He's the best supporting actor. The book is really about **God**.

ON TV: The book of Jonah is about a **great** and **gracious** God.

ON TV: "God save me! I know there's two possible ways to get out of a fish this size. Have mercy on me and let me get out the north end instead of the sound end of this fish. God, please save me.!"

ON TV/OUTLINE: "1 From inside the fish, Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. 2 In my distress, I called on the Lord, and He answered me." Jonah 2:1-2a

ON TV: We can call on God and He will answer, **even when we've run away or have drifted from Him**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: "So let us come **boldly to the throne of our gracious God**. There we will receive his **mercy**, and we will find **grace** to help us when we need it most." Hebrews 4:16

ON TV/OUTLINE: "...From the depths of the **grave** I called for help, and you listened to my cry." Jonah 2:2b

ON TV: **Sheol** = Grave or Hell

ON TV: "I was as good as dead, **but God in His mercy, used pain**, to allow me to be **born again**."

ON TV: "I couldn't contribute a thing, but I was not **hopeless**..."

ON TV: In spite of what we're facing, we can be **born again**!

ON TV: God still did a **miracle**. God was actively working, even though Jonah was **still in pain**.

ON TV:

- **Phase 1:** God **allows a storm**.
- **Phase 2:** God **sends the captain**.
- **Phase 3:** The **sailors have mercy on him**.
- **Phase 4:** God **sends a fish**.
- **Phase 5:** The fish gets a tummy ache and **throws him up on shore**.

ON TV: Never forget the **"But God"** moments.

ON TV/OUTLINE: "When my life was ebbing away, **I remembered you**, O Lord, and my prayer rose to your Holy Temple." Jonah 2:7

ON TV/OUTLINE: "Those who cling to worthless idols **forfeit the grace** that could be theirs." Jonah 2:8

ON TV: Hessed = The **pursuing love** of God.

ON TV: First, he had the idol of **prejudice**.

ON TV: Second, he had the idol of **self**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “What I have vowed, **I will make good**.” Jonah 2:9b

ON TV/OUTLINE: “Salvation comes from the Lord.” Jonah 2:9c

ON TV/OUTLINE: “For it is by the **grace** of God that you are saved---and this is not from yourselves, it is the **gift of God**.” Ephesians 2:8

ON TV/OUTLINE: “And the Lord commanded the fish, and it **vomited** Jonah onto dry land.” Jonah 2:10

ON TV/OUTLINE: First, whether we are on top of the world, or whether we are in the depths of what feels like Hell, **when we call on God, He will answer us**.

ON TV: “My soul clings to you; your right **hand upholds me**.” Psalm 63:8

ON TV/OUTLINE: Second, when we **respond rightly** to God’s correction, **our way of seeing things changes**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: Finally, as a result of God’s correction, we find ourselves sitting in a place **we’ve never been before**.

ON TV:

- **First**, I want to invite you to **release something** in prayer that you’ve been holding onto, but know you need to **let it go**.
- **Second**, for those who don’t have a relationship with Jesus Christ, let that open hand be the moment where you **willingly embrace and invite Christ to be your savior**.
- **Third**, for some of us that have drifted from our faith, see your open hand today as **reaffirming your commitment to Christ**; that you will begin to again, or continue to **cling to him**.

