



Jonah 2 – The Grace of God.

ADAM LONG | Week of January 13th, 2019

SERMON OVERVIEW // Act Two of the Book of Jonah centers around the sovereign grace of God – specifically in the area of His sovereign grace in salvation.

SERMON TEXT // **Jonah 1:17-2:10** English Standard Version

There is a value judgement made in every decision – big and small. Every decision made in this life lived in Christ brings with it a value judgement on the salvation we have received in Christ. Jonah is the perfect example of someone who knew exactly what he was doing when he surrendered himself over to God but at the same time may not have had a clue of what exactly that would mean for every day afterwards.

Within this chapter - where a desperate prayer is booked ended by details of this great fish - we are faced with evidences of the truth spoken in verse nine: *salvation belongs to the LORD*. **The first evidence we see here is the way God protects Jonah's life.** (1:17)

This story is not about a fish (*mentioned 4 times*). It is not about the Ninevites. (9x) It isn't even about Jonah. (18x) **This story is about the gracious God of salvation.** (38x) The thing we should remember is that even in Jonah's disobedience by **grace** - God made a way for Jonah to be protected. God's sovereignty is not based on our goodness or our worth – it is centered on His goodness and His worth.

The next piece evidence we see of God's grace in salvation is the way God answers Jonah's prayer. (2:1-6A) We get a glimpse into the prayer Jonah prays from inside the fish. It is not a bedtime prayer but rather a deathbed prayer. Regardless of the *when* - I believe it is key to note that it is never too late to pray. And, it is never too early to pray. Prayer lifts our eyes out of our trouble and onto God in whom we have hope.

The realization Jonah came to through his prayer is found in the theme verse of the entire book of Jonah: ***Salvation belongs to the LORD!*** (Jonah 2:9b) Leading us to **the last of the evidences that salvation belongs to our gracious God alone – by the way God continues Jonah's mission.** (2:10) God had called Jonah to a mission and was not going to allow anything, including Jonah's sinful decision making to stop His plan.

Charles Spurgeon once said “**God never allows His children to sin successfully.**” May we always be thankful of that truth. The truth that God, through His sovereign grace, will protect His people, He will answer their prayers, and will always complete His mission.



Discussion Questions – The Grace of God.

COMMUNITYGROUPS

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Question 1

What was something you wrote down or a truth that resonated with you from listening to the sermon, looking at the overview, or even in reading this particular chapter in Jonah?

Question 2

Every decision we make carries with it a value judgement – even the way we spend our free time. **Based on what you do in your free-time, what do you value in life? What value do spiritual disciplines and service within the church and the community have to you?**

Question 3

Often times we miss God's calling in our lives because our eyes are on something other than Him. Often these things can become idols to us. In his book *Counterfeit God*, Pastor Tim Keller says, "An idol is whatever you look at and say, in your heart of hearts, 'If I have that, then I'll feel my life has meaning, then I'll know I have value, then I'll feel significant and secure.'"

What are some things in life from which you might be drawing an inordinate amount of self-worth, personal value, or even a sense of security? Please share any mixed-group-appropriate answers you feel comfortable sharing.

Question 4

In the sermon Adam said his prayer was that "our proactive prayers would be as fervent as our reactive prayers." **Do you tend to air on the side of proactive or reactive prayer?** Share some reasons you see this evidence in your own life with the group.

Question 5

Bible teacher Warren Wiersbe writes, "Jonah couldn't save himself, and nobody on earth could save him, but the Lord could do it, for 'salvation belongs to the LORD' (Jonah 2:9)

How is this truth important in your own life? Take a moment to think through the question to avoid obvious answers and bring a specific thought to share with the group.