



## Pastor Derrick Shields “God’s Yes in Our No: He Listens When We Pray” 6/13/2021

### Key Verses:

- Jonah 2

### Key Thoughts:

- In this series, we are looking at an example of someone that was sent but did not want to go where God was sending them. There's a little Jonah in all of us.
- In this chapter, God gets Jonah's attention in the belly of a fish. God has a way of getting our attention when we've hit the bottom.
- In this moment, Jonah prays. Interestingly, it's the first time in the story that Jonah prays. He's said a lot but has not cried out to the Lord.

### Jonah's Prayerful Response:

1. Cry for help – v.1-2
  - He'd just come out of a storm and now he's inside a fish. Sometimes it's not until rock bottom that we look up.
  - Storms remind us of what it feels like to be lost and hopeless. Part of Jonah's issue was he didn't want to give God's message to the Ninevites that were also lost and hopeless. So God reminded him of what it's like.
2. Acceptance of God's discipline – v.3
  - Jonah recognizes that it wasn't the sailors that were responsible for where he was, it was him. Sometimes we can blame other people for our situations and that prevents us from seeing our role.
  - Hebrews 12:5-11 explains the importance of accepting discipline from God. It brings about a "harvest of righteousness and peace".
  - Our options when faced with discipline (Hebrews 12:5-11):
    1. Make light of it
    2. Lose heart or become discouraged
    3. Resist it and invite even stronger discipline
    4. Endure it, and grow in righteousness and peace
3. Places his trust and hope in God's promises – v.4
  - Do we look to God when things get rough?
  - In this prayer, Jonah is quoting scripture back to God when he's in the belly of this fish and the walls are closing in on him.
  - When we find ourselves in the middle of a storm, we have a choice on where we turn. Jonah shows us the best response to the storms of life.



#### 4. Submitting to God's will – v.8-10

- Jonah's saying these words not knowing that he's going to be rescued.
- When we're going through hard times, it's hard to be thankful. But what if we responded here as Jonah did?
- Jonah says in these verses that "what I have vowed I will make good". It took Jonah going into the belly of this fish to finally say "yes, Lord". Do we have to get to the depths like Jonah did? Or can we learn from his example and say "yes, Lord"?

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- If you're honest, where do you look when things get tough in your life?
- What will you do this week to intentionally connect more with God?
- What are you currently going through that causes you to feel helpless, hopeless or powerless?