

Mercy Finds Us In The Dark Jonah 2
Calvary Chapel Titusville 10/11/26
Pastor Paul Andris

God brings Jonah to the end of himself.

Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly. And he said: "I cried out to the LORD because of my affliction, And He answered me. "Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, [And] You heard my voice. (Jonah 2:1-2 NKJV)

Darkness cannot silence a sincere cry to God.

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD; Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive To the voice of my supplications. (Psalm 130:1-2 NKJV)

No place is too deep for prayer, and no darkness can block the ear of God.

For You cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the floods surrounded me; All Your billows and Your waves passed over me. Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight; Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.' (Jonah 2:3-4 NKJV)

***God's discipline is not designed to make us uncomfortable;
Rather make us honest and bring us home.***

God loves us too much to bless our rebellion.

My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction; For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son [in whom] he delights. (Proverbs 3:11-12 NKJV)

The fish wasn't proof God forgot Jonah. It was proof that God was still pursuing him.

The waters surrounded me, [even] to my soul; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head. I went down to the moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars [closed] behind me forever; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD, my God. (Jonah 2:5-6 NKJV)

What seemed like confinement was actually preservation.

"The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up. (1 Samuel 2:6 NKJV)

When self-rescue ends, saving grace becomes clear.

The Lord's power to save is greater than our power to ruin.

He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:19 NKJV)

At the cross, Jesus bore our penalty so mercy could raise us to new life.

"When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; And my prayer went [up] to You, Into Your holy temple. (Jonah 2:7 NKJV)

Remembering who God is steadies us when circumstances overwhelm us.

I called on Your name, O LORD, From the lowest pit. You have heard my voice: "Do not hide Your ear From my sighing, from my cry for help." You drew near on the day I called on You, And said, "Do not fear!" (Lamentations 3:55-57 NKJV)

Remembering the Lord also means remembering His Word.

"Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own Mercy. But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation [is] of the LORD." (Jonah 2:8-9 NKJV)

Repentance abandons false saviors and rests in Jesus as the only Savior.

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (Ephesians 2:4-5 NKJV)

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We contribute the sin that makes salvation necessary; God supplies the mercy and new life.
and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation [belongs] to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Revelation 7:10 NKJV)

God's salvation is received by faith, not achieved by religious effort.

Obedience is the fruit of mercy, not the price of mercy.

not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, (Titus 3:5 NKJV)

We obey because He saved us, not to earn His salvation.

So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry [land]. (Jonah 2:10 NKJV)

Christ's resurrection assures us that death will not have the final word.

The deep is not too deep, the night is not too dark.

Your failure is not greater than His mercy.

Cry out to Him, look to Christ, **Salvation is of the LORD.**