

At The Movies 2025
The Book of Jonah
Week 2: Running to...
Jonah 2:1-10
Justin Jacobs

Sermon Introduction

The book of Jonah is more than a story about a man and a fish — it's about God's mercy, grace, and salvation. In chapter 1, Jonah ran from God. In chapter 2, Jonah shifts. From the belly of a great fish, he stops running away and starts running to God.

Jonah's prayer in chapter 2 is raw, honest, and full of lessons for us. It reminds us that crisis moments can push us to God, that He hears us even in our lowest places, and that salvation is always His work. To illustrate these truths, scenes from the movie *Cast Away* highlighted the themes of isolation, desperation, and rescue.

1 – Crisis Can Push You to Run to God (Jonah 2:1)

Movie Clip – Cast Away (0:26:00–0:29:00): The plane crash scene shows Chuck losing all control, mirroring Jonah's crisis moment that forced him to turn to God.

Jonah prayed for the first time only when he had no other options. Crisis has a way of tearing down our illusions of control and forcing us to recognize our need for God.

- Jonah didn't pray when God called him, during the storm, or even when the sailors threw him overboard. He prayed only inside the fish.
- Sometimes God uses storms and "belly of the fish" moments to bring us back.
- Crisis isn't always punishment — it can be God's mercy pulling us closer.

2 – God Hears Us in the Depths (Jonah 2:2)

Movie Clip – Cast Away (0:35:00–0:38:00): Chuck wakes up alone on the beach and begins speaking to Wilson, symbolizing Jonah's cry from isolation and God's ability to hear even when we feel unheard.

Jonah says, "From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and You listened to my cry."

- No place is too far for God to hear us.
- Jonah prayed from a fish's belly, yet his prayer reached God's temple.
- Even in our silence, pain, or isolation, God is attentive.

3 – God Uses the Deep to Draw Us Close (Jonah 2:3–6)

Movie Clip – Cast Away (0:50:00–0:53:00): Chuck learns to make fire and catch food, showing how the island, though unwanted, becomes a place of growth and transformation.

Jonah acknowledges that God placed him in the deep, not to destroy him but to rescue and reshape him.

- The “deep” teaches dependence by stripping away pride, comfort, and self-reliance.
- God uses hard seasons as refining fires. Like a blade forged in fire, the pressure and heat prepare us to be strong for His purpose.
- Transformation often happens in the places we’d never choose for ourselves.

4 – Salvation Belongs to the Lord (Jonah 2:7–9)

Movie Clip – Cast Away (1:30:00–1:33:00): Chuck launches his raft, but true salvation comes only when a cargo ship finds him, illustrating that rescue is ultimately God’s doing.

Jonah remembers the Lord and declares, “Salvation comes from the LORD.”

- Jonah’s rescue was not self-made; it was God’s work.
- Salvation is never achieved by effort or good works, but only by God’s grace.
- We can paddle all we want, but true rescue always comes from Him.

5 – God Saves You For Something (Jonah 2:10)

Movie Clip – Cast Away (2:05:00–2:08:00): Chuck returns home and stands at a crossroads, symbolizing Jonah’s second chance and our own choice to walk in God’s purpose after being rescued.

The fish spits Jonah onto dry land, showing that God doesn’t just save us from something, He saves us for something.

- God gave Jonah a second chance to fulfill his mission.
- Our salvation isn’t just about safety, but about living on purpose for God.
- Every rescue from God comes with a renewed calling.

Closing Thoughts

Jonah’s story reminds us that God meets us in the storm, hears us in the depths, shapes us in the deep, rescues us by His grace, and sends us out for His

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purpose.

The challenge is clear:

- Are you running from God, or running to Him?
- Where do you need to cry out for rescue today?
- What purpose has God saved you for?