

- The mercy of God is weaved throughout the book of Jonah ... It's the mercy of God that causes a great fish to swallow Jonah ... Even more, it's the mercy of God that keeps Jonah alive while in the great fish ... It's God's mercy that's the backdrop of Jonah's prayer
 - **Ps139:8, 18:6, 34:4-8 ... vs3-6** Jonah recounts his experience ... Some words should be understood as poetic language ... But what happens to Jonah is very real

- **Vs3** – Hands of the sailors are Hands of the Lord ... Sailors recognize this in **1:14**, now so does Jonah ... It's the Lord's hands, waves, judgment ... Whole time Jonah's been trying to outrun God's presence ... Now in the water, he's overwhelmed with realization of banishment – **vs4** (same word **Ge3:23**) ... Running from God takes us farther from where we want to be ... In this realization, Jonah looks to find God's mercy (holy temple) ... Notice Jonah's descent ... Yet no matter how far he descends, still the mercy of God is there to rescue him
 - Sometimes, God's mercy isn't obvious ... Was the fish appointed to kill Jonah or to rescue Jonah ... There is always redemptive purpose behind the Lord's discipline and judgment ... It's His will to seek and save all that's lost ... It's His will to grow and mature all that belong to Him ... It's His will to bring home His children, and not lose one of them ... We need to understand the Lord's discipline through what we know to be true ... Equally, we need to understand the Lord's kindness through what we know to be true (**Rm2:4**)

- Jonah's motivation for repentance is found in God's mercy – **vs7** ... Repentance is done in faith ... In turning from sin, we turn to God ... It's one movement ... It's a movement that the Holy Spirit enables you to accomplish
 - We don't repent to earn something ... We repent because of what we've been given – what's been done on our behalf ... Repentance is grounded in the gospel – what Christ has done for you
 - When you repent, it's evidence of salvation; proof you've been born-again ... Don't avoid repentance or see it as a burden ... Embrace repentance and see it as a gift ... Repentance = growth and freedom ... Way we magnify the cross of Christ

- How do I repent ... 1) Agree with God about your sin – don't justify or minimize; name it and own it ... 2) Agree with God about your life – you belong to Him; belonging to Him means living differently ... **vs9** – Jonah recommits his life to the Lord (grounded in the **Lord's commitment** to him) ... Notice Jonah follows the example of the sailors ... It's taken him much longer to return to the Lord ... Yet no matter how long it's taken, he finds the same merciful Savior
 - **“Meant to humble the Israelites who are reading this: the pagans they despise are quicker to realize their need of the Lord and turn to Him in worship than the Israelite prophet who ministers in the Lord's name”** ... (Pharisee and Tax Collector, Anointing of Sinful Woman, Thief on the Cross) ... This breaks spiritual pride or deepens spiritual pride
 - Jonah receives mercy instead of judgment, deliverance instead of death ... This should change him ... This should change every person who's received the same from the Lord ... Will it?