



Series: Running From God

Sermon: Part 3:Running From Grace

Date: Sunday, September 29th, 2024

Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. He said: "In my distress I called to the Lord, and He answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and You listened to my cry." (Jonah 1:17-2:2)

God's _____ meets Jonah's disobedience in the form of a big fish.

Even in Jonah's disobedience, God continued to be there for Jonah, even though Jonah did everything to spite God.

"You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all Your waves and breakers swept over me." (Jonah 2:3)

_____: Used in the Old Testament to describe the realm of the dead, the afterlife, or the spiritual state of being in the grave

"I said, 'I have been banished from Your sight; yet I will look again toward Your Holy temple. The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the Earth beneath barred me in forever.' But You, Lord my God, brought my life up from the pit. When my life was ebbing away, I remembered You, Lord, and my prayer rose to You, to Your Holy temple." (Jonah 2:4-7)

Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that His kindness is intended to turn you from your sin? (Romans 2:4 NLT)

There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the covenant law, I will meet with you and give you all My commands for the Israelites. (Exodus 25:22)

We All Have To Understand:

- 1. Because of our sin, we all deserve condemnation and death***
- 2. Because of our sin and our inability to keep the law of God, we become spiritually separated from God and we are unable to save ourselves***
- 3. The hope that we have is that God has saved us despite our sin but at an infinite cost to Himself***
- 4. Ultimately, we have to make a choice to receive what God did for us in order to redeem us or ignore it***

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)



“Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them. But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to You. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the Lord.’” And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land. (Jonah 2:8-10)

An _____: Something or someone that we worship and give our extreme devotion and time to, even to the point where we make sacrifices for it

God doesn’t just want to be one of many but the One who has priority over all else.

_____ : Making a decision to turn the other way, making a 180 degree turn, where we stop going our way and start going God’s way

“God, I’m so sorry I thought I knew better than You when I did When I did this it hurt You, it hurt me, and it hurt those around me. Forgive me for my pride and sin. I surrender to Your will, I want to follow Your ways, and I choose to trust You again.”

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Jonah’s deliverance came _____ his repentance.

“Salvation belongs to God alone, to no one else. If someone is saved, it is wholly God’s doing. It is not a matter of God saving you partly and you saving yourself partly. No. God saves us. We do not and cannot save ourselves. That’s the Gospel.” (Pastor Tim Keller, The Prodigal Prophet)

Bottom Line: *Jonah’s deliverance came after his repentance.*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

1. *When was a time when you reached rock bottom? Where everything fell apart and it humbled you enough to look to God and start to depend on Him?*
 2. *Are you still trying to save yourself or are you able to look to Jesus as the One who ultimately saves?*
 3. *What about grace? Are you living into the love and grace that God has freely given to you for the forgiveness of sins or are you depending on your own righteousness and good works to save you?*
 4. *If you currently find yourself in a storm or in a pit, how may God be inviting you to turn to Him with your life?*
- Songs used in service: This is Our God (Phil Wickham), Graves Into Gardens (Brandon Lake & Elevation Worship), Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (Robert Robinson), Same God (Elevation Worship),*

Any prayer requests?

-----Tear Here -----

Name _____ **Date:** _____ **Email:** _____

What can we be praying for you about?