

Jonah 1 Review:

- We all run from God // We are Jonah!
- God pursues Jonah // us!
 - He seeks to get our attention.
- It is not enough to **stop running** ...

Sometimes, we are just thankful to not be what/where we used to be.

Sometimes, we believe “acceptable” to family, friends, & society is the standard.

Sometimes, we are unaware there is “more” ...

Sometimes, we just don’t know where to turn or which way to go ...

Sometimes, we believe God’s job is to help us out along the way ...

We may not be **running** from God, but we are **missing** God!

Runners must be **restored** TO God **BY** God.

Jonah 1:17-2:1

The Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and **Jonah** was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. 1 Jonah **prayed** to the Lord his God **from** the belly of the fish:

Jonah’s Story // Our Story:

It is not what happened **TO Jonah** but what’s happening **IN Jonah** that matters.

Jonah prays from inside the fish ...?

- Jonah ran from God, but God never left.
- Jonah’s at the bottom, but he’s now in God’s will.
- He never prays to get out of the fish.

Jonah: awake but must be restored.

Jonah 2:2-3

I called to the Lord in my distress, and **He answered** me.

I cried out for help from deep inside Sheol; **You heard** my voice.

³When **You** threw **me** into the depths, into the heart of the seas, the current overcame **me**. All **Your** breakers and **Your** billows swept over **me**.

The Process of Restoration:

{one at a time; same slide}

1) A new, fresh sense of **God’s presence**:

- a) **Personal, near and real** → Living presence
- c) Everything under **His control** → Direction
- d) Ripe with holy **potential** → Purpose

Important how we think about God being in control or “sovereign”—

- Predetermined: fixed, futile and fatalistic
- Present, active → Living God ... WITH us!!

Important how we **categorize** what happens to us:

- Misfortune; coincidence
- Victim
- Weight of being a “fixer”

No matter what happens TO us, it should never **define** us, but God will use it to **redirect** us or **deepen** His work in us.

Jonah 2:4

And I said, “I have been **banished from Your sight**, yet **I will look once more** toward Your holy temple.

2) The **divided** heart **unites** around God & His **living** presence.

Our relationship with God is all that really matters → *Coram Deo*

The point is the presence of God → God **restoring** us into His presence.

Genesis 3:8-9 (ESV)

... the man and his wife **hid** themselves from the **presence of the Lord God** among the trees of the garden. ⁹**But** the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “**Where are you?**”

Psalms 139:7

Where can I go to **escape your Spirit**? Where can I flee from **Your presence**?

Jonah 2:5-7

The water engulfed me up to the neck; the watery depths overcame me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. ⁶**I sank** to the foundations of the mountains, the earth’s gates shut behind me forever! **Then You** raised my life from the Pit, Lord my God! ⁷As my life was fading away, I **remembered** the Lord, and my **prayer came to You**, to Your holy temple.

3) Recognition: there is **only one way** to enter His presence—by His **grace** and His **provision**.

There are **pre-conditions** for grace to be received:

- We are **broken & guilty**.
- We cannot **save or help or fix** ourselves.
- God: **pursues and provides**.

There is something about **us** and in our **culture** that makes such grace seem **unnecessary** and perhaps even **insulting**.

This explains why we often find grace not at the high points of life but **at the bottom**.
→ The heart has to be **shown**.

Jonah 2:8-9

Those who cherish worthless **idols** abandon their **faithful love**,
⁹ but **as for me**, I will sacrifice to you with a voice of **thanksgiving**.
I will fulfill what I have vowed. **Salvation belongs to the Lord**.

4) Restoration → **practice the living presence** of God.

- Repentance & Humility
- Confidence & Assurance
- Fresh consecration & a fresh sense of God

Jonah 2:10

Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Notice the order: Jonah receives grace and acts in faith BEFORE he is released from the fish.

- The turning point is NOT the situational miracle (the fish)
- The turning point is the miracle of grace IN the heart.
- The POINT is Jonah is restored into the blessing of presence.