

Jonah: The Reluctant Prophet-12

Introduction: We are continuing through Jonah's prayer, concluding with Jonah being expelled from the great fish. This is a second opportunity for Jonah.

II. Jonah's Repenting: God's Protection - Chapter 2

A. The Prayer Of Jonah v1-10

1. The Person of the Prayer v1
2. The Reason of the Prayer v1,2
3. The Manner of the Prayer v2
4. The Place of the Prayer v2,3,5,6
5. The Faith of the Prayer v4,6,7

This whole chapter deals with the prayer of Jonah from the moment he is cast overboard, to the moment when God commands the great fish to expel Jonah. He prays describing his plight. He uses language such as:

vs. 3 "...*thou hadst cast me into the deep...*"

vs. 5 "*The waters compassed me about, even to the soul...*"

He speaks perhaps of a near death experience which gives us the understanding that this is a terrible and impossible situation. But we see here in our text one hallmark of this prayer is **Jonah's faith toward the Lord**.

Jonah cries out to His God in the midst of this affliction.

We will see in this last section the **conclusion of this prayer, the praise of the prayer and the result of this prayer**.

6. The _____ of the Prayer v8,9

When we get down to **verse 8 and 9**, we see Jonah's conclusion. This conclusion is a summary statement for Jonah.

Verse 8 tells us, "*They that **observe lying vanities** forsake their own mercy.*"

Notice in this first statement the third word. **It is the word observe**. What does this word mean?

This word gives the idea of paying attention to, or watching **but with the intent of obedience. It is not just watching, but really has to do with following after.**

The next word is pretty obvious for us to understand which is the word 'lying.' We would understand the word 'lying' means something that deceives.

But these two words, "lying" and "vanities" are to be taken together. In essence, Jonah is speaking of idolatry.

As we look at the text, we can see that this phrase here in **verse 8**, "*They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy*" is put in direct contrast with his statement in **verse 9**, "*I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.*"

They that trust in anything other than God are abandoning their only means of mercy; their only means of Salvation. My friend, if someone rejects the Lord Jesus Christ they are forsaking their only means of Salvation; they are forsaking the grace of God and His mercy.

Many might argue this today and state, "Aren't there many religions and many ways to God? They are all basically the same, just with different names and different ways." "You have your way and that's fine for you and I have my way and in the end in all accomplishes the same ends."

My friend, the answer that Jonah has given is **absolutely not!** We could summarize this statement in **verse 8** by making note of several things:

1. **We all need mercy.**

Not only in terms of Salvation, but we even as Christians are dependent upon the mercy and blessings of God as we see here in Jonah's plight. Remember Jonah is God's man; He is a prophet. Jonah was not a heathen man. Once we have received forgiveness because of the precious blood of Jesus Christ, we will never be found guilty condemned to Hell. However, we can find ourselves out of fellowship with the Lord and in need of His mercy.

How dangerous it is for us to think we could observe lying vanities and prosper in the way we are going?

2. **Everything outside of the one true Living God is false, deceptive, and empty.**

When we look in the world today it is full of idols. It is full of false substitutes for the one true Living God.

3. There is no means of Salvation except by God.

When the Lord Jesus Christ stated in **John 14:6** “...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

He declared that He is the only way, He is the only truth, He is life. There is no other way for any person to come to Salvation but by Jesus Christ. **There is no other way for a Christian to walk in this life but in fellowship with the Lord.**

Jonah had allowed Himself to turn from the Living God. He had allowed Himself to have an evil heart of rebellion. He consulted with His own reasoning rather than submitting to His God.

In the end it was a choice of forsaking His own mercy. Do we need to be reminded of this, this very morning? **The answer is yes**, for we would not find it recorded in the Word of God if it were not so.

Secondly, I would like for you to notice what Jonah states **in verse 9**.

*"But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; **I will pay that that I have vowed**. Salvation is of the LORD."*

Jonah gives us the somber warning about forsaking the mercy of God. But then we see here he states, I will do this, *"I will pay that that I vowed."*

This is a **statement of commitment** to the Lord.

We will see in **chapter 3**, Jonah does what God asks Him to do a second time:

1. He goes to Nineveh.
2. He preaches that message that God has for him to preach.
3. He submits himself in obedience to doing what God has asked him to do.

How many times we have come to this altar here at the church house and made commitments to the Lord?

Matthew 5:34-37 *"34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: 35 Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. 36 Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. 37 **But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.**"*

In other words, those commitments that we make to Lord and those commitments that we make with our mouths, **ought to be acted upon in truth**. Whatever Jonah had vowed to His God, Jonah should keep.

A right heart attitude toward the Lord will result in a careful obedience in the right direction.

Next, we see:

7. The _____ of the Prayer v6,9

Jonah praises God for who He is. He says, *“I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving.”*

We are oftentimes quick to tell God all that we need. We are quick to let out our laundry list of difficulties and problems.

Jonah states, *“I will sacrifice unto thee with the **voice of thanksgiving...**”*

The psalmists in **Psalms 100:4** declares for you and I that we ought to *“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.”*

The Lord in teaching the disciples to pray expressed this to them as necessary when we pray. In **Matthew 6:9** that He states, *“9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, **Hallowed be thy name.**”*

Lastly, we see:

8. The _____ of the Prayer v10

What was the result of Jonah praying?

- a. **God acted in Mercy upon Jonah’s Prayer.**
- b. **God allowed Jonah an additional opportunity to serve Him.**
- c. **Jonah is back in fellowship with the Lord.**

If we were to ask Jonah at the end of this chapter, did you waste your time praying?

I have no doubt he would say absolutely not.