

Theme: Jonah's prayer of thanksgiving from inside the fish is a model of crying out to God with His Word, but it also reveals Jonah's lack of personal repentance and his lack of compassion for the lost.

I. Intro – Les Miserables

- A. Story of Jean Valjean and his redemption
- B. Ex-convict taken in by Bishop - steals from him
- C. The great quote from the Bishop
- D. Valjean is so grateful he shows mercy to all
- E. Unfortunately, some are saved and not show mercy
- F. Jonah has been saved - will he now have mercy?

II. The Rebel In Distress Prays

- A. Jonah's is in serious distress
 - 1. Inside the fish, distress, belly of Sheol (vv1-2)
 - 2. In a watery grave (vv3, 5-6)
 - 3. At the point of death (vv2, 6-7)
- B. The movement of distress and prayer
 - 1. V2 - Chiasm of distress and prayer
 - 2. V7 - At death I remembered & prayed
- C. Jonah is right to cry to God when in distress!

III. The Rebel In Distress Prays Scripture

- A. Jonah's prayer is certainly orthodox
 - 1. Jonah prayer to the Lord his God (vv1,2,6,9)

- 2. He does not forget Yahweh, or look elsewhere
- B. Jonah's prayer is almost entirely verses from Psalms
 - 1. Entire prayer is in form of thanksgiving psalm
 - 2. Almost every phrase in prayer is from the Psalms
 - 3. Table showing phrases and source in Psalms
- C. Externally, Jonah had done the right things
 - 1. In his distress he turned to Yahweh, not others
 - 2. His prayer to Yahweh was full of Scripture

IV. The Rebel's Wrong Attitudes in Prayer

- A. There is no repentance in Jonah's prayer
 - 1. Notice he did not pick a psalm of confession to pray!
 - 2. 2:3 - You cast me in the sea - really?
 - 3. 1:12 - Jonah chose to be thrown in the sea!
 - 4. 2:4 - I am driven away from your sight - really?
 - 5. 1:3 - Jonah ran away from God - and paid to do so!
- B. Jonah still despises the idolaters he should pity
 - 1. 2:8 - idolaters 'forsake God's covenant love'
 - a. NASB - 'forsake their faithfulness (to God)'
 - b. Difficult but I lean to ESV - forsake Divine mercy
 - 2. Either way, 'sinners are unfaithful and don't deserve mercy!'
 - 3. v9 - But I will be faithful to Yahweh; sacrifice, fulfill vows

4. Above him, idolaters are turning to Yahweh! (1:16)

5. Above him idolaters are sacrificing & fulfilling vows! (1:16)

C. Salvation belongs to the Lord!

1. 2:9 - Salvation belongs to the Lord! - He is right!

2. Only Yahweh can save - salvation belongs to Him!

3. Yahweh may save whom He chooses - belongs to Him!

4. But does Jonah really believe this?

5. Will he really rejoice if God saves Nineveh?

6. Chapter 4 will show us the answer (NO!!!)

V. Applying the Word - Salvation Belongs to the Lord

A. Do we know that salvation belongs to the Lord?

1. There is no other way to salvation!

2. O that my problem was just being inside a fish!

3. Like Jonah I have freely sinned, run from Yahweh

4. Hell gapes open before me to swallow me whole

5. Satan desired to have me - and I ran to him!

6. But God in His mercy reached down and saved me!

7. I urge you - cry out to Him for salvation!

8. There is NO other way of salvation

9. But He is here in power to save!

B. Do we thank God - and pray and reach out to others?

1. Do we thank Him for saving us? He did not have to!

2. Rebels don't like it, but we have no right to His mercy!

3. Does this prompt in me compassion on the lost?

4. Do I cry out for others to hear and believe?

5. Do I act with compassion - or like Jonah, Pharisees?

C. The Lord's Supper

1. We are coming to the Lord's Table

2. We will be singing "How Sweet and Aweful Is the Place"

3. Note the gratitude for God saving us - it is His work

4. Note the pity on those who don't know - that is His heart

5. Come, give thanks, cry out for others to come

The Rebel Prays

Jonah 2
June 5, 2011
Communion
Psalm 67:1-3

Bishop: Now Don't Forget, Don't ever Forget, you've promised to become a new man.

Jean Valjean: Promise? Wha, Why are you doing this?

Bishop: Jean Valjean my brother you no longer belong to evil. With this silver, I have bought your soul. I've ransomed you from fear and hatred, and now I give you back to God.

He said to them, “**Pick me up and hurl me into the sea**; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.” Jonah 1:12

But **Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD**. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, **away from the presence of the LORD**. Jonah 1:3

Those who regard vain idols forsake their faithfulness
Jonah 2:8 NASB

Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows. Jonah 1:16

1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish,

2 saying, “I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

3 For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.

4 Then I said, ‘I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.’

5 The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head

6 at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.

7 When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.

8 Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love.

9 But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!”

10 And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

Jonah 2:1–10