



THINGS I LEARNED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: Jonah and the Whale

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Mount Paran North

¹ The LORD gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: ² "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are."

³ But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the LORD. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the LORD by sailing to Tarshish. ⁴ But the LORD hurled a powerful wind over the sea, causing a violent storm that threatened to break the ship apart.

Jonah 1:1-4 NLT

God's Word and calling primarily reveal places in me to surrender to God.

Jonah and the Whale

⁹ Jonah answered, "I am a Hebrew, and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land." ¹⁰ The sailors were terrified when they heard this, for he had already told them he was running away from the LORD. "Oh, why did you do it?" they groaned. ¹¹ And since the storm was getting worse all the time, they asked him, "What should we do to you to stop this storm?" ¹² "Throw me into the sea," Jonah said, "and it will become calm again. I know that this terrible storm is all my fault."

Jonah 1:9-12 NLT

¹ Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from inside the fish. ² He said, "I cried out to the LORD in my great trouble, and he answered me. I called to you from the land of the dead, and LORD, you heard me! ³ You threw me into the ocean depths, and I sank down to the heart of the sea. The mighty waters engulfed me; I was buried beneath your wild and stormy waves. ⁴ Then I said, 'O LORD, you have driven me from your presence. Yet I will look once more toward your holy Temple.' ⁵ "I sank beneath the waves, and the waters closed over me. Seaweed wrapped itself around my head. ⁶ I sank down to the very roots of the mountains.

I was imprisoned in the earth, whose gates lock shut forever. But you, O LORD my God, snatched me from the jaws of death! ⁷ As my life was slipping away, I remembered the LORD. And my earnest prayer went out to you in your holy Temple. ⁸ Those who worship false gods turn their backs on all God's mercies.

⁹ But I will offer sacrifices to you with songs of praise, and I will fulfill all my vows. For my salvation comes from the LORD alone." ¹⁰ Then the LORD ordered the fish to spit Jonah out onto the beach.

Jonah 2:1-10 NLT

Jonah:

- **Turns his back on God**
- **Cries out to God**
- **Receives God's grace**

Jonah and the Worm

¹ Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ² "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." ³ Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. ⁴ Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." ⁵ The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. ⁶ When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸ But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish." ¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

Jonah 3:1-10 NIV

People of Nineveh:

- **Turn their backs on God**
- **Cry out to God**
- **Receives God's grace**

¹ This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. ² So he complained to the LORD about it: "Didn't I say before I left home that you would do this, LORD? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people. ³ Just kill me now, LORD! I'd rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen." ⁴ The LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry about this?"

Jonah 4:1-4 NLT

Things we like - God is full of grace and justice

Things we dislike - We don't control God's grace and justice