

## **Yesterday's Sermon - In 10 Sentences or Less**

### Fishing with Jonah (Week 2) - Grace Like a Fish:



- 1) We picked up the story where we left off last weekend: Jonah alone and facing certain death of his own choosing in the middle of the ocean.
- 2) And in that moment we learn that sometimes God's grace is a giant fish.
- 3) By definition this is what grace is like in our lives: it is God's undeserved intervention on our behalf, sometimes even rescuing us from a mess that we've made and yet won't acknowledge (as was the case with Jonah himself).
- 4) If God was willing and able to deliver Jonah from certain death that he himself chose, then God is also willing and able to rescue you from whatever dilemma you face.
- 5) But keep in mind - God's deliverance may not look like what you expect, or even like (i.e., a fish, not a boat, for Jonah).
- 6) There are several reminders to glean from Jonah 2 about what to do when we're in a moment or season of distress, the first of which is, like for Jonah himself, God may be waiting for your unvarnished honesty about how dire things really are.
- 7) As God waits in silence in Jonah 2, we're left to wonder: would Jonah make it out of the fish alive if he isn't willing to get real with God about his need for salvation?
- 8) The second pointer is to remember God's past faithfulness and let it shape your expectant, anticipatory prayer how God will intervene graciously now (see Jonah 2.2, 7).
- 9) In a quote that speaks directly to the relationship between remembering and praying in both Jonah 2 and the Psalms, Lewis Carroll writes, "It's a poor sort of memory that only works backwards."
- 10) The last lesson from Jonah 2 about times of distress is that this experience holds the potential to be no less than rebirth (the writer of Jonah uses four linguistic references related to childbirth in 1.17-2.2 to describe what Jonah would undergo in the fish's belly or womb).

## **A Quote to Remember**

Philip Yancey, in What's So Amazing About Grace?:

"Grace does not depend on what we have done for God but rather what God has done for us...Grace comes free of charge to people who do not deserve it and I am one of those people...There is no loophole that disqualifies us from God's grace... Grace, like water, flows to the lowest point."

## **Keep Jonah 2 With You This Week**

1) Here are the prayer prompts that ended the sermon yesterday. You can use them throughout the week in your own devotional life as a way to keep Jonah 2 fresh on your mind...The 3rd one will be especially important for you if you're currently navigating some real distress in your life:

- Pray about that which in your life you think is impossible to overcome
- Get real with God about your distress
- Remember God's past faithfulness to you when you really needed it
- Pray expectantly for His deliverance to come, however surprising a form it may take
- Pray for your distress to be the pain of rebirth

2) Interested in that great Philip Yancey book on grace? Here are some great quotes from it to whet your appetite, and/or for your encouragement and learning:

[What's So Amazing About Grace? Quotes by Philip Yancey](#)

And here's a link to the book itself:

[What's So Amazing About Grace?: Yancey, Philip](#)

3) This online devotional, especially geared for young adults but great for all, about rescue from trouble will be a wonderful add-on to our reflections on Jonah 2:

[d365 Daily Devotionals](#)

(And if you like this devotional, you can sign up to receive it for free...it's one of the three that Pastor Chris gets and reads daily, in fact.)

4) And just for a little fun (for all ages), here's Jonah 1-3 as portrayed by Veggitales:

[Jonah the Movie | Movie Clip](#)

And here are the outtakes:

[Jonah A VeggieTales Movie: Outtakes](#)