

## PRAYER AT DEATH'S DOOR

Jonah 1:17-2:10)

There are some great prayers recorded in the Bible. Some are quite short while others are long. Some of these: Moses' prayer of intercession, David's prayer for forgiveness, Daniel's prayer for insight, Hezekiah's prayer for healing, Jesus' prayers, Peter's prayer for rescue, Paul's prayer for believers, & John's prayer for Jesus to come. Jonah's prayer is no exception. It is a great prayer from a unique place. Jonah is at the brink of his own death. Last time we left Jonah drowning in the Mediterranean Sea. He was fleeing from the will of God. He was about to learn that God was willing to go to great lengths to bring His children, even us, to doing His will.

**THREE LESSONS AS WE TOO EXPERIENCE GOD'S RESTORATIVE WORK IN OUR LIVES.** We too need to realize that life is never safe as a run away from the Lord.

**I. The Lord Is Able To Use Dramatic Measures To Get Our Attention And Bring Us To The End Of Ourselves. (1:17) "But the Lord provided a great fish..."**

- A. Our wonderful Lord does not let Jonah go. He pursues him and brings him back to the path of obedience through repentance.
  - 1. God provided a great fish. "dag" At just the right moment, it was there to swallow the disobedient prophet. God is sovereign over His creation. It is at His disposal.
  - 2. Jonah's time in the gripe of death for 3 days would prefigure Jesus while in the grave.
- B. For unbelievers, Jonah was not the only man to be swallowed by a fish and live to tell about it. The sperm whale has an enormous mouth (20'x15'x9')  
James Bartley, a sailor on a whaling boat in Feb, 1891...was found inside a whale, and lived.
- C. Hebrews 12:6 tells, "the Lord disciplines those He loves." God is able to use means to bring us back to Himself which are as un-dramatic as this is dramatic.  
God knows the way to bring us back. It could be our health, finances, family, work, and circumstances. Listen to God's voice and return to that place of blessing. (Isaiah 55:6-7)

**II. The Prayer Of Repentance Is A Beautiful Prayer Revealing Our Brokenness Through Confession and Thanksgiving. (2:1-9)**

- A. Now Jonah has returned to the presence of the Lord...he is praying.
  - 1. He had fled from the Lord in disobedience. (1:3) It had been awhile since he had prayed. Disobedience always leads to a prayer-less life.
  - 2. He had abandoned God. But when he felt as though God had abandoned him, he did

