

E2E- Part 97

Jonah 2-4

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1. God cares about us as individuals and about our personal details, but His objectives are also about a larger picture. It's not always about us.
2. Jonah is a man who shows no mercy to Ninevah, yet he becomes the object of God's mercy.
3. Jonah doesn't believe the people of Ninevah *deserve* the mercy of God. His fear is that the Assyrians *would* repent and be spared the catastrophe they deserve.
4. The Lord's authority over creation is shown through a miracle in the form of the "sea monster." The main question isn't "what kind of fish," but rather "can God do this."
5. God answers Jonah's cries from the belly of the fish and gives him a second chance to obey God. Jonah makes the journey to Ninevah to warn them of their punishment unless they repent and turn to God.
6. Verse 5 is stated low-key, but the reality is it's the largest revival in the Old Testament and truly a miracle.
7. The people of Ninevah were known to be cruel and wicked, lacking compassion and full of pride. God uses a rebellious prophet to bring rebellious people to faith.
8. Jonah is a walking contradiction. He receives grace, but doesn't want others to have that same experience.
9. We all have "Jonah tendencies" to be self-absorbed. God's compassion on Ninevah points us to Jesus, who put mercy on display in human form.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Mna' (*men-aw* '); to count, appoint, allot:— number, **ordain**, set – **prepare**

Dag (*dawg*) a fish (in the sense of squirming) moving by the vibratory action of the tail - (often used collectively)

Ketos (*kay'-tos*); a huge fish (as gaping for prey): — whale

Chasma (*khas'-mah*); (to gape or yawn); a “chasm” or vacancy : — gulf

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Leaning On the Everlasting Arms
Sweet By and By
I'll Fly Away

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How can you relate to, or see yourself in Jonah's story?
- Have you ever felt like Jonah? Like you want mercy for yourself, your friends, or people who are like you, but not for others? Where or for whom do you feel this temptation?
- How do you think that should change in light of God's revelations of himself in Jonah?
- In the book of Jonah, God shows His abundant compassion and mercy for a people that do not know Him, while reserving his judgment for his ungodly Israelite prophet.
- Where do we see these elements reflected in Jesus' ministry or teachings?
- What lessons should we, as Jesus' followers and representatives, take away from these examples?
- How do you think we could be applying them in our lives?
- God asks Jonah, "Do you have good reason to be angry?"
- How does God's question challenge us when we feel frustrated or upset about His plans?
- Mark describes Jonah as a "walking contradiction" who experiences grace but doesn't want others to receive it.
- How can we recognize and address similar contradictions in our own attitudes or actions?