



October 6, 2024 Sermon Notes

Sermon:

“Praying A Water Prayer”

(Jonah 2:1-4 ESV)

Sermon By: Pastor G. Chris Brown

Sermon Text:

Jonah 2:1-4 ESV

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.'

Background:

- Jonah we know ran from his called assignment, because it was Jonah who got the word of God to go to Nineveh but he ran to Joppa, to pay the fare to go to Tarshish. It was at that moment, that a storm showered up and Jonah was the cause and the captain and mariners through Jonah in the water, after they talked to the Lord they threw him overboard, and then you see that Jonah is in the belly of the fish for 3 days and after 3 nights, but it was all because Jonah didn't go where the Lord said, and now you see that he's in this place.
- You see that when we make the wrong decisions that it can lock us up, sometimes we are still messed up and still haven't healed from some choices that we have made because you have to watch what you do, because sometimes the reason we haven't got healed is because we haven't really prayed! Sometimes we are locked down, and sometimes we are messed up because of not having this moment like Jonah did because Jonah is at this place that he's locked down, he can't go anywhere, and that's because the Lord has control over Jonah and the fish, and when you follow the Lord you realize and understand that God has all control!

“The Prayer Season”

- This word “distress” in the Hebrew means - Trouble.
- You can’t be mad at others or lash out of others, when it has been you that chose to make that choice, when it was you that made it happen because sometimes we have to take the responsibility on our own because it was me that did it, it was me that chose to go down that road, and it was me that decided that I was going to do what I wanted to do, and I didn’t have to but I did it anyway!
- Real prayer is humble enough to admit that Lord I was wrong, Lord I messed up, Lord I missed it, Lord I didn’t do right, Lord I am sorry, Lord I am guilty, Lord I know this is my fault, Lord I know that I didn’t go in the right way, and now I am praying to you because I know that I need you! It’s great to know that even though I mess up, even though I fall, and even though I am not innocent I still know that the Lord is still present! That’s the key to be reminded of, and that’s the power of God, that the Lord will still hear my prayer even though I have messed up, I have sinned, and I have been wrong but God still listens to my prayer!
- Prayer is that real, prayer is that transparent, and prayer is that open. You have to look at prayer like that, and it’s a blessing to know that God locks me to stop me, but sometimes we go places we shouldn’t go running from God only to run into more problems that we need the Lord to get us out of! We run this way and we run another way, but sometimes we can run every way but yet we still aren’t running away from the Lord but the Lord is good and the Lord is loving that the Lord puts me in the belly of the fish, because God loves me that He doesn’t want me to ruin me!
- When I am praying I’m grateful that God uses me, and when we are used by the Lord and when the Lord is at work I am glad that God lets me live! The miracle is not just the prayed, but it’s the fact that God keeps Jonah from death even while being in the belly of a fish, Jonah is still breathing and has all of his functions and it just goes to show how sovereign the Lord is and how unlimited God is, that He has the power over all beings!
- You see that when we make the wrong decisions that it can lock us up, sometimes we are still messed up and still haven’t healed from some choices that we have made because you have to watch what you do, because sometimes the reason we haven’t got healed is because we haven’t really prayed! Sometimes we are locked down, and sometimes we are messed up because of not having this moment like Jonah did because Jonah is at this place that he’s locked down, he can’t go anywhere, and that’s because the Lord has control over Jonah and the fish, and when you follow the Lord you realize and understand that God has all control!
- There’s just something about being close to God, serving God, knowing God, and living for God that even when I get away from Him and even when I don’t always

do the right things I can still go to Him, and I can still mention His name, and still have joy because I am still with Him!

- It's then what you do you do when adversity comes, because you're going to face adversity but what do you do you can't run away because adversity is coming with you, you can't shout what you don't live, and when you look at your spiritual walk it ought to go from just talking but talking and living! That's what the key is because even though it's a challenge, there ought to be some faith in you that you know that I believe in the power of the Lord, I believe and have hope that things will get better, I have hope that things won't remain the same, and I have hope that things will improve because there's something in me that keeps me encouraged and what keeps me encouraged is knowing that the Lord operates and specializes in doing great things!

“The Water Look”

- **Look at how Jonah says that he is cast into the deep, and that the flood waters are all around me! Then not only that, but you look at this as well that Jonah looks up to the Lord because he makes it clear that he is looking up to the holy temple of the Lord, but look at what he is facing, and look at what he is going through at this moment because it is the water that is around him, it is the water that is making him feel trapped, it is the water that has me feeling rough, it is the water that is making feel this way, but then the water is apart of my repentance because it is as if God is showing me, how it feels to be in a flood!**
- **The decisions you make today, don't just affect you tomorrow but they can affect you down the line. The decisions that you make today, are critical decisions what decisions are you making today that you made, you wanted to do it, and you chose to do it but you didn't pray over it but you just did it? Why is it that we wait until after the decision has been made to pray, but we don't do it beforehand and why don't we seek the Lord in it, because I rather the Lord make decisions for me, than make decisions for myself but I need to allow, and let the Lord do it!**
- **Jonah says that the Lord cast him into the deep part of the sea, and when he was in the deep part of the sea it was then that you see that Jonah had no other choice but to look up! That's interesting how the Lord works sometimes, that the Lord will put us in some areas and some spots that we have no other choice but to look up, we have no other choice but to pray, and we have mother choice to call God because sometimes the Lord shuts us off from everything else so He can deal with us! There are times, we need to be shut off from other stuff that we can really hear Him, and that we can have real consecration and real sacrificial worship with Him!**
- **The water is that reminder that once choice can mess me up, one bad day can mess me up, and one following can mess me up! The water is the reminder that you see that it's all around me, the water is what doesn't leave me, the water is so high that**

it really should have taken me out but the Lord didn't let me get down, but he did show me what can happen if I keep on going the wrong way! There have been times that the Lord has blocked us from stuff, and the Lord has shielded us from stuff just to show us that it isn't right, it isn't proper, and it isn't what you should do, and God has allowed some stuff to not happen or be found out because of His grace!

- God always has a designated place for you to repent to Him, but will also give you a preview of what it will feel like when we don't go the right route! It's about going the right way, not the way I want to go but the way God wants me to go! When I go the right way, I can avoid things that I don't need, and I can walk away from things that I don't need, because I realize and I know that now I know how it feels to get in trouble, and I don't want that experience again!
- Look at the text, and you see that Jonah still looked up to the Lord because even though Jonah felt like the Lord was against him, and felt like the Lord wouldn't look at Him but Jonah still looked up to God! Jonah didn't allow the feelings stop him from looking up to the Lord, and Jonah is still showing us something that is true that you can always go to God, no matter what I do I know that the Lord will still keep me, and I'm kept because of how good the Lord is to me. I'm here, because of my reliance on God, and I'm here because the Lord loves me and I can look up to the Lord, and I can call Him all of the time!

This Week's Goals:

- Read all 4 chapters of Jonah this week!
 - Pray a repentant prayer!

Broadway MBC - Winchester, Kentucky

Pastor G. Chris Brown

121 W. Broadway St, Winchester, Kentucky 40391

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