

ENTRUSTING TRUTH



Jonah 1:17 – 2:10

Jonah 2

The narrative shifts location — we are with Jonah in the fish. If you wanted to, you could actually make an outline of this book by marking out the times when the narrative shifts locations.

Read through the chapter several times a day. Even though you have looked for structure and repetitions in the past two weeks continue to look for ways the themes of the book are emphasized. Remember to look for the verbs that are used and notice what force they have.

There may be some things that come up in the study that puzzle you or do not quite fit with your understanding of God or the Christian life. Or there may be parts of the story that you do not understand. Write your questions out. The action of writing them out sometimes will bring other questions to mind or bring clarity to your thinking. Do not feel like you have to answer them, but write them out so that you can review them at the end of the study.

Today's Assignment:

Read through the section several times.

What do the structural markers tell you about this section of the book?

Then Jonah Prayed result of God's intervention

The prayer is logical in sequence.

So – Nevertheless in verse 4 – is ironic. He is running away from the presence of the Lord and he is complaining about being expelled from His sight.

It is interesting that the section starts with Then Jonah and ends with Then God. As a result of Jonah's prayer God acted. Or so it seems.

In particular, what is being revealed about Jonah?

He does not seem to be repentant but is continuing to seek the Lord in the midst of the calamity he caused.

Jonah 1:1-16

Tuesday

Read through this section again

How would you characterize Jonah's attitude here?

He is not repentant he seems to be whining but is grateful in his whining. He claims to be in distress but his distress is self inflicted. He is a different character here. He has caused his problem and is complaining about being in the state which he was seeking. This is a lot like me.

If you had the opportunity to address Jonah at this point in the story what would you say to him?

I would ask him why he is complaining about being in the situation he is in when his actions caused the result. I would ask why he has not repented of his disobedience. I would wonder why he thought he could run away from God

Wednesday

Read through the section again. We have recorded here Jonah's prayer from the belly of the fish.

What are the elements of the prayer? That is, confession, adoration, thanksgiving, and/or supplication, . What elements are there and specifically what does Jonah include in those elements?

This is mostly supplication – I am in trouble and I need help. There is no confession here.

If there are elements missing what are they? What, if any, significance is there to way Jonah chose to pray here? That is, is there any significance to the elements he included or excluded?

He does not confess his disobedience to God here.

Thursday

The actors in this section are Jonah and the Lord. Read through the section again and make note of what you learn about each in this section.

Jonah is unrepentant and scared.

The Lord is in command of this situation. He responds to Jonah. His mercy goes beyond Jonah's lack of repentance.

Friday

Read this chapter through again. How would you divide it up? What would you call each section?

Jonah 1:1-16

I would not divide it.

As with last week craft a five word or less description of the section and pick a verse that reflects that.

A prayer in denial – 2:4

What is one thing from this chapter that challenged you or encouraged you?

It is encouraging to me that God can use such a flawed character. He chooses to bestow mercy and Grace on one who not only ran but does not ask forgiveness.

This is difficult for me. The model that I have is that God responds to us when we are sorry. Here he is responding not because Jonah is sorry but because he wants to use him for His purposes. What does that say about Jonah? Is it the case that God can use us while we persist in sin and rebellion? It certainly seems that way. If that is in fact the issue here then what are the implications for Jonah's relationship with God?

What questions do you have about this that are unresolved? Share them with someone this week.

We are halfway through the book. How is it going? What questions do you have about this, either the method or the book? If you went through Philippians you may have noticed that the method is the same. The intent here is that you could take this approach to almost any book in the Bible.

Do you feel like you could do this on your own? Why or why not? If there are questions about your being able to do this on your own we would like to know them. Perhaps we can address them for you. Please jot down your thoughts and questions in this book and either bring them up in Sunday school or email them to info@entrustingtruth.org.

Sermon Notes

Sunday School Notes

Small Group Notes


Jonah

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1:1	The word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying,	
1:2	“Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.”	Reason – Substantiation – the reason that Jonah was sent to Nineveh was the wickedness of the city. In what sense had the wickedness come up before the Lord?
1:3	<p>But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.</p> <p>So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.</p>	 <p>Note the immediate contrast with God’s desire... From the map Jonah goes in the opposite direction that which he was commanded Note the Repetition of “from the presence of the Lord” Jonah does not want to be in the Lord’s presence – why not? Note the verb Sequence – Went down, found, paid, went down... He expended effort and money to do opposite to what the Lord wanted him to do</p>
1:4	The Lord hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up.	Note the actor here is the Lord – verb is hurled – action the sense is violent action Causation – the cause is the wind the effect is the storm and the ship about to break up... The Lord has control over the wind and consequently the ship.
1:5	Then the sailors became afraid and every man cried to his god, and they threw the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them.	Further Causation as a result of the ship’s danger the sailors responded appropriately note the sequence became afraid, cried, threw Purpose to lighten the ship. This has the ring of truth to it. It is what one would expect sailors to do.

	<p>But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down and fallen sound asleep.</p>	<p>Contrast with the sailors actions:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Jonah</td> <td>Sailors</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gone Below</td> <td>Became Afraid</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lain Down</td> <td>Cried to god</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fallen sound Asleep</td> <td>Threw Cargo Overboard</td> </tr> </table> <p>Jonah was not concerned with the storm.</p>	Jonah	Sailors	Gone Below	Became Afraid	Lain Down	Cried to god	Fallen sound Asleep	Threw Cargo Overboard
Jonah	Sailors									
Gone Below	Became Afraid									
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1:6	<p>So the captain approached him and said, “How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps your god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish.”</p>	<p>Causation – as a result of what the contrast between his men and Jonah he came to him with a question. Captain marveled that he was asleep..</p> <p>Implied Conditional If you call then he might</p>								

Note that the caption is calling on the very attribute of God that Jonah is running from. Side comment. The prophecy against Nineveh was a demonstration of God’s compassion. He was warning them to repent. Which, as we see later in the text, they did.

1:7	<p>Each man said to his mate, “Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity has struck us.” So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.</p>	
1:8	<p>Then they said to him, “Tell us, now! On whose account has this calamity struck us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”</p>	
1:9	<p>He said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land.”</p>	
1:10	<p>Then the men became extremely frightened and they said to him, “How could you do this?” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.</p>	<p>Note fleeing from presence of the Lord is repeated again.</p>

Note that Jonah had told them what he was doing. This set them up for their response to the Lord when what he told them to do worked.

1:11	<p>So they said to him, “What should we do to you that the sea may become calm for us?”—for the sea was becoming increasingly stormy.</p>	
1:12	<p>He said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will become calm for you, for I know that on account of me this great storm has come upon you.”</p>	<p>It is interesting that Jonah knows what to do to solve the problem. It is almost like he expected this to happen...</p>
1:13	<p>However, the men rowed desperately to return to land but they could not, for the sea was becoming even stormier against them.</p>	<p>Contrast – Note here the contrast between the sailors and Jonah. They had compassion on Jonah and wished to save him and they were not servants of God while Jonah who was a servant and under orders to warn Nineveh was running away from that responsibility</p>

1:14	Then they called on the Lord and said, “We earnestly pray, O Lord, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life and do not put innocent blood on us; for You, O Lord, have done as You have pleased.”	Causation – Cause the storm increases = effect they resolve to do what Jonah asks – but they do not want to. The contrast between their hearts and Jonah’s is highlighted yet again. This is key – as a result of Jonah’s running from the Lord the sailors recognize the sovereignty of God.
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Note that they are calling out to God – They are calling on the Lord’s compassion and this is what Jonah is running from – it also parallels the reaction of the King and people of Nineveh below...

1:15	So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.	Parallels to Christ on the Sea of Galilee
1:16	Then the men feared the Lord greatly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.	Note the evangelistic nature of this story. Even in running from God Jonah had a ministry to his shipmates. These men feared the Lord that Jonah did not fear running away from.

Note the comparison to Matthew 8:24-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

1:17	And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.	The Lord appointed causation – the result of God’s appointment of the fish
2:1	Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the stomach of the fish,	Causation, temporal, sequence – as a result of being in the fish he prayed. Brings to mind Hebrews 12:8 – 11 God disciplines us for our good
2:2	and he said, “I called out of my distress to the Lord, And He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice.	His distress was in a large part self inflicted
2:3	“For You had cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the current engulfed me. All Your breakers and billows passed over me.	
2:4	“So I said, ‘I have been expelled from Your sight.	Interesting that Jonah here says he was expelled from God’s sight but it was his objective to run from the presence of the Lord.

	Nevertheless I will look again toward Your holy temple.’	Irony – nevertheless? He is the one who was running from the Lord Devotionally – this is a lot like what I do. I get myself in situations that are difficult because of my rebellion against God and then expect and ask Him to deliver me from what I have created by my disobedience. It is a measure of His grace, mercy, and lovingkindness that He does answer those sorts of prayers.
2:5	“Water encompassed me to the point of death. The great deep engulfed me, Weeds were wrapped around my head.	Graphic
2:6	“I descended to the roots of the mountains. The earth with its bars was around me forever, But You have brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God.	
2:7	“While I was fainting away, I remembered the Lord, And my prayer came to You, Into Your holy temple.	
2:8	“Those who regard vain idols Forsake their faithfulness,	
2:9	But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the Lord.”	Salvation is from the Lord – This is one of the keys to the book
2:10	Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.	

This is a good example of repentance. Or not. He does not really ask the Lord for anything. He tells Him what has happened and the Lord acts. In a sense Jonah may be content to die here so that Nineveh is not warned. The only hint of Jonah’s willingness to follow God here is the phrase “that which I have vowed I will pay,” in verse 9.

3:1	Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying,	
3:2	“Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you.”	
3:3	So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days’ walk.	
3:4	Then Jonah began to go through the city one day’s walk; and he cried out and said, “Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”	
3:5	Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them.	