

Sermon Notes

Series: Jonah

Date: January 31st, 2010

Title: “Returning to Fellowship”

Text: Jonah 1:17-2:10

The following is the manuscript of the last 2-3 minutes of the sermon that was unrecorded...

And God wants to pour that same grace out on all of His children. That’s why Scripture says, “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” So when you come to God admitting you’re weak, He wants to give you His strength. When you come to God admitting your foolishness, He wants to make you wise. When you come to God admitting your sin, He wants to grant you forgiveness. And when you come to God admitting you’re dying, He wants to provide you life.

And as Christians, we experience that grace not through a fish but through Jesus! We experience God’s grace through His Son. As John said in his gospel, it’s from the fullness of Jesus that we’ve received grace upon grace. I mean...after all, it was Jesus who died in our place and bore the wrath for our sins. It was Jesus who conquered the grave and brought us new life.

So brothers and sisters, Jesus is the reason our prayers are answered. Jesus is the reason we can be rescued. Jesus is the reason we can return to fellowship with God. In fact, he’s the reason we can be in fellowship with God to begin with. And again, if you are here today and you don’t know God personally, that can change. You too can experience God’s grace. But you must experience God’s grace through Jesus. You must believe that Jesus died and rose to forgive your sins and bring you into fellowship with God.

And let me tell you, fellowship with God is an amazing thing. When we enjoy God’s fellowship it changes everything. It changes our outlook. It changes our commitments. It changes our testimony. After all, that’s what it did for Jonah...Just look at verse 8.

Jonah says, “Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love.” So basically, Jonah is saying I see things differently now. Because I experienced your grace I have a different outlook. I see clearer than ever just how great and awesome you are. In fact, you’re greater than any god of this world. The steadfast love you offer is like no other.

But there’s more. In verse 9 Jonah’s commitment changed as well. He says... “But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay.” So instead of following his way, Jonah wants to follow God’s will. And in verse 9 he’s committing to worship God. He’s committing to worship God through sacrifice and vows.

And then he finishes verse 9 with a changed testimony. And what a testimony it is. He says Salvation belongs to the Lord! And I believe it was C.I. Scofield who said that sentence is the theme of the entire Bible. And it is. From Genesis to Revelation, it’s clear that we can’t save ourselves. It’s clear that Salvation Belongs to the Lord. And so in closing, let me ask you? Is that your testimony? Can you say that today? Because if you’ve seen your need for God’s grace and you’ve experienced God’s grace, you know more than anything that “Salvation Belongs to the Lord.”