

Growth Assignment

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Jonah – When You Hit Bottom - Part 1

John 6: 44 (NASB)

*No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me **draws** him...*

In our story, Jonah has hit bottom as he lies in the belly of the great fish. Jonah is responsible for his predicament. His resistance to God's will has brought him to this low point. It is natural for us to resist God. In John 6:44, the Greek actually means that God **DRAGS** us into relationship with him...Our human nature resists Gods' holiness and sovereignty.

Jonah's situation forces him to cease his running away from God and to face Him. Jonah learned some important truths. **First**, God was listening to him:

Jonah 2: 2 (ESV)

*"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.*

1. **Describe a time when you hit bottom and FELT hopeless, but discovered that God was listening to your cries for help. How did God reveal to you that he was listening to you?**

A **second** truth Jonah learned was that God is in control:

Jonah 2: 3 (ESV)

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.

2. **Jonah was experiencing the consequences of his disobedience, but the situation was under God's direction. What consequences have you experienced because of your disobedience? How were you able to determine that God was using the consequences to bring you into compliance?**

Jonah 2: 4 (ESV) ... *I am driven away from your sight...*

- 3. Jonah was attempting to flee from God's presence. It appears he got what he wanted. Yet he laments the situation. Reflect on a time that you resisted God's will, got what you wanted, but regretted the results.**

Third, Jonah learned that God answers prayer:

Jonah 2: 6 (ESV) ...*yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.*

- 4. Describe your experiences of God answering your prayers of desperation.**

It has been said that nothing focuses the mind like the knowledge that one has nowhere to go - not future, no hope, nothing except you and God. That is what Jonah learned in the belly of the fish. **Where does God have to take us before we learn the same thing?**