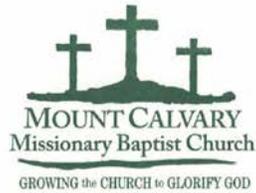


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Wednesday March 22, 2017

12:00 – 1:00pm

Jonah's prayer; the Lord

The book of Jonah challenges God's people not to exalt themselves over others. The Lord, the great King, is free to bless, to be gracious, and to be patient with all the nations of the earth. More than that, He may show compassion even on the wicked. Indeed, His mercy extends even to animals (4:11). Jonah's view of God was too restrictive. He believed that God was the Creator of everything, but that He was compassionate only toward the elect of Israel. Jonah believed that since God had chosen Israel from the wicked nations, He had to show mercy to Israel, even if the people were rebellious. Jonah had failed to appreciate that the Lord may be equally forbearing with other nations as He was with Israel.

Jonah prayed for delivery part I

Jonah 2:1-5

- I. Jesus Christ said his death and Resurrection were foreshadowed by Jonah's experience (Mt. 12:39, 40).
- II. Jonah prayed implies that he was alive and conscious of what was going on around him.
- III. Jonah prayer indicated that he had stored the word of God in his heart (Rom. 15:4).
- IV. When the sailors threw Jonah into the sea, he seemed to be as good as dead. Thus for Jonah, the sea became like Sheol, the place of death (Ver. 2).
- V. Jonah realized that it was God who cast him into the sea, Jonah were not making accusations against God, but acknowledgments of the Lord's sovereign control of his life (ver. 3).
- VI. The man who had run from God's presence was alone, yet he clung to the hope that God would not abandon him.

**Conclusion:** We as Christians must always remember that we are God's represented to the world. We may feel that ungodly and hateful people don't deserved God grace and mercy, but that is not our call to make. Our mission as Christians is to reach out to all humanity. God extended His love to all the world (John 3:16).

Next week lesson: Jonah prayed for delivery part 2; chapter 2:6-10.