

# When God Calls a Man (Part 3)

## Jonah: Down is the Way Up



### Discipleship Groups

Sermon Dates:  
**April 29 & 30  
2023**

**Jim Jacobs**

Scripture Text  
***Jonah 2:1-9***

#### **DISCUSSION STARTER:**

Have you ever tried to run away from something you felt God was asking you to do? To step out and take a chance on? Possibly having to sacrifice something you deem to be a priority in your life, for a task or action that God may be planning for you?

#### **QUESTIONS:**

*Read Matthew 14: 25; Matthew 8: 26; Mark 8: 22-25.*

- What kind of act do these passages have in common? What do they describe?
- Given your answer above, what did Jim say the point of the Book of Jonah was? Was it to prove a person can live for 3 days in a fish? What would it take for such an event to occur?

*Read Jonah 1: 4; Jonah 1: 17*

- So, if God is the God of miracles (raised Jesus from the dead), the Book of Jonah reveals that the real point is - that God is up to something \_\_\_\_\_. (what?)

(HINT: a word associated with God all through the story of Jonah).

#### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

*Read Jonah 1: 3; Jonah 2: 1;*

- While God is associated with the word “great”, Jim pointed out that Jonah was associated with the word “down”. While God is up to something “great”, and Jonah is “down” in the fish, in a place of death, what did he do? What had been Jonah’s priorities about prayer? Do we have the same priorities about prayer? Why is this?

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#### REFLECTION/DISCUSSION:

- Have you had times when you've been in over your head? Have you ever felt "bottomed" out? Did you discover that God didn't have the same perspective on those problems as you did?
- Can you recall God's intervention in situations such as this? Was prayer a part of the solution?

#### QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

*Read Ephesians 3: 20; Jeremiah 29: 11.*

Jonah was going down while God was up to something great.

- What characteristics were being displayed by Jonah from the very first time God gave him direction to go to Nineveh?
- What realization took place to cause Jonah to resort to prayer?  
*Jonah 2: 7.*
- What did Jonah mean in this verse? To what do you think he was referring? *Jonah 2: 9.*

#### GROUP REFLECTION:

*Read Luke 1: 37*

Jonah's problems presented no challenge to God. Death and the grave are not problems for God, so stiff-necked, rebellious, and stubborn humans like Jonah – and like you and me at times – present no barrier to God's love for us.

## When God Calls a Man (Part 3)

### Jonah: Down is the Way Up

- Take a moment as a group to thank God and praise Him for the reality of that blessing in our lives!

*Read John 1: 46; Jonah 1: 5-6 & 1: 17; Luke 11: 29.*

- Can you remember any of the parallels in Jonah's life with that of Jesus' life? (*What does the name Jonah mean?*)

#### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSIONS:**

The final point of Jim's sermon was that Jonah was a foretaste of the victory of Jesus who comes to meet us at the lowest place – Where O Death, is your victory? Where, O Grave, where is your sting?

*Read Romans 6: 5 & 14: 8; Luke 23: 43; John 5: 24 & 11: 26; Psalm 107: 13-14.*

- Do you fear rough times could be ahead? Do you fear death? Why or Why not?

#### **REFLECTION:**

- Jim closed with: "Jesus comes and says: If you'll let me, I'll meet you at the Cross. I'll meet you at the tomb. The 3<sup>rd</sup> day is coming, if you'll meet me." Meditate on this.
- Are you meeting with Jesus every day with that in mind? Do you keep His sacrifice and promises foremost in your thoughts and everyday actions? Don't wait until a crisis comes to get right with Jesus.