

# CHASING JONAH

aka the prodigal prophet

## **Lesson Three: Jonah's Unrepentant Heart**

**First Baptist Church Chappell Hill, May 16, 2021**

# Thinking Biblically

- Key Question: What does it mean to think Biblically?
- Bible does NOT contain all truth, but IT IS completely true
- Reality is what God says it is
- We have to jettison the baggage in our minds and replaced it with God's thinking (Romans 12:1-2)
- We live in an age of deception (2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Colossians 2:6-8)
- Our **ethics** should be rooted in the Bible (Hebrews 5:12-14)
- Where does the Bible say that?
- Connecting what we know to what we do (Eph. 5:18-20 and Col. 3:16-17) — NOT being form over substance Christians!

# Jonah's Unrepentant Heart (ch 2)

**Jonah 2:1** Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,

**2** And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD,  
and he heard me;

out of the belly of hell cried I,  
*and* thou heardest my voice.

- Hebrew poetry? (parallelism, Heartbreak Hotel fallacy)
- KEY QUESTIONS: Why does Jonah finally pray? What is missing from his prayer? Is Jonah a form over substance believer? 24k gold?
- What is the “belly of hell”?
- When do we pray? How do we learn how to pray? How should we learn how to pray?

# Heartbreak Hotel Fallacy

Well, since by baby left me

Well, I found a new place to dwell

Well, it's down at the end of Lonely Street

At Heartbreak Hotel

— — — — —

Well, the bellhop's tears keep flowin'

And the desk clerk's dressed in black

Well, they've been so long on Lonely Street

Well, they'll never, they'll never get back

# Jonah's Unrepentant Heart (ch 2)

**Jonah 2:3** For thou hadst cast me into the deep,  
in the midst of the seas;  
and the floods compassed me about:  
all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.

**4** Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight;  
yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

- Who threw Jonah in the water?
- Who cast Jonah out of God's sight?
- Why a confidence of looking again toward the holy temple? (could refer to the physical temple or God's heavenly abode)
- **PRINCIPLE**: The person telling the story is always the hero (or the victim). [how do Christians make themselves the victims? See James 1:13-15]

# Jonah's Unrepentant Heart (ch 2)

**Jonah 2:5** The waters compassed me about, *even* to the soul:  
the depth closed me round about,  
the weeds were wrapped about my head.

**6** I went down to the bottoms of the mountains;  
the earth with her bars *was* about me for ever:  
yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my  
God.

- Jonah is on the brink of drowning
- The ancients believed that the netherworld (sheol, hades) was beneath the sea and the entrance was a door at the sea bottom with bars over it
- Jonah is at the very gates of sheol, his time is up

# Jonah's Unrepentant Heart (ch 2)

**Jonah 2:7** When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD:

and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.

**8 They that observe lying vanities [idols] forsake their own mercy.**

**9** But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving;

I will pay *that* that I have vowed.

Salvation *is* of the LORD.

**10** And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry *land*.

- At the very point of death, he thought to pray
- Who is verse 8 about?

# Application Points

- We should pursue God with the whole of our lives and not only seek His face when we have a need.
- We should not be form over substance Christians, emulating the walk and talk but not be transformed from the inside out to be more and more like Jesus Christ.
- QUESTIONS
  - Does Jonah's prayer reflect repentance and a turning back to God?
  - Based on Jonah 1, what should we find in Jonah 2?
  - Why did God permit Jonah to be thrown overboard?
  - Would we be better off as Christians if God stopped us from our mistakes?
  - What is a "form over substance" Christian?