

## MAN OVERBOARD! – Part 5

Jonah Series  
2006 October 4

### Review (Chapters 1-3)

- Jonah disobeys God's order to prophesy against Nineveh
  - *Jonah's disobedience is typical of ours (Isa 53:6; Rom 3:23)*
- God sentences Jonah to death – cast overboard into a raging sea
  - *the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23)*
- Jonah cries out to God who spares him from death
  - *God is both just and merciful (Eph 2:4)*
- Jonah acknowledges God as his Saviour and yields to Him
  - *discipline produces righteousness in those trained by it (Heb 12:11)*
- Jonah prophesies against Nineveh – they repent and are spared
  - *We must die to our own selfish ways in order to be empowered by God to minister life to others (2 Cor 4:12)*

### Jonah's Reaction (Chapter 4)

- Jonah is displeased by God's show of mercy to Nineveh (1-3)
  - *Jonah preferred to see them destroyed*
  - *He resented God's longsuffering and lovingkindness (2)*
  - *He challenges God to take his life (3)*
- God questions his attitude (4)
- Jonah retreats from Nineveh in misery (5)
  - *perhaps God would destroy Nineveh?*
- God miraculously<sup>7</sup> provides a shade-tree ease his misery (6)
  - *this pleases Jonah*
- God miraculously<sup>8</sup> destroys the shade-plant and Jonah languishes in the hot wind/sun (7,8)
  - *Jonah's misery and death-wish return*
- God again questions Jonah's selfish anger (9)
  - *Jonah argues with God (meekness? – NOT!)*
- God points out Jonah's foolishness in caring more for the plant than for the welfare of a large city

### Truths Illustrated in this Passage

- The on-going experience of victory in Christ's cross and resurrection depend on our on-going faith in God and His ways rather than ours
  - *we must die to self daily if we want to be God's servants (Lu 9:23; 1 Cor 15:31)*
- In times of trouble we cry out for mercy (and rejoice in receiving it), yet in our fallen nature we tend to condemn others mercilessly (Mt 18:23-35)
  - *we ought to be merciful just as God has been merciful to us (Lu 6:36)*
- We are often more concerned about material benefits (that God freely bestows on us) than the spiritual welfare of others
  - *we are called to set our minds on spiritual, eternal things rather than temporary, earthly things (Col 3:3; Mt 6:19-21)*

### Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever had an experience of great spiritual victory only to find a short time later that you were wallowing in self-defeat? What other Bible characters (besides Jonah) experienced this? Why is this occurrence so common in God's people?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. When you witness someone committing sin and apparently "getting away with it", how does it make you feel? Do you ever wish that people would receive a swifter judgement for their wrongs? Does God condemn you swiftly?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What worldly preoccupations typically keep us from serving God? Does concern for your own possessions and comfort get in the way of you being used in a greater way by God?