

PETER • JONAH • JOB • NOAH • PAUL

STORM STORIES

SURVIVING LIFE'S TEMPESTS

PART THREE: SURVIVING THE STORM OF FAILURE

PHASES OF FAILURE IN JONAH'S STORY:

1. THE _____ PHASE

The word of the LORD came to Jonah... "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He ...found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD. Jonah 1:1-3

2. THE _____ PHASE

Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god... Jonah 1:4,5a

• _____
But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god!" Jonah 1:5b,6

• _____
Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." ...The lot fell on Jonah. So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us?" Jonah 1:6-8

• _____
He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land." This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" Jonah 1:9,10

• _____
The sea was getting rougher and rougher... "Pick me up and throw me into the sea," Jonah said, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you." Jonah 1:11

3. THE _____ PHASE

Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm ...But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights. Jonah 1:15

The faith response:

- _____ God for help
From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. Jonah 2:1
- _____ an attitude of praise
He said: "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry." Jonah 2:2
- _____ my powerlessness
"The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head." Jonah 2:5
- _____ God's grace
"Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you." Jonah 2:8,9a
- _____ myself with God's plan
"What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD." Jonah 2:9b

4. THE _____ PHASE

And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land. Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD... Jonah 2:10;3:1,2

On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned." Jonah 3:4

Top temptation of new converts: Harsh _____ of others!

When God saw ...how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them destruction... But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. He prayed... "O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love..." Jonah 3:10;4:1,2

The most quickly forgotten lesson of failure:

Extend the same grace to _____ God extends to _____!

Daily Meditations

Spend some time each day meditating on today's topic...

This week's memory verse:

"You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.'" Jonah 2:3

Monday

Look back over the message notes and read the whole book of Jonah (it's only 3 or 4 pages long!) What do you think is the message of the book? What impresses you about the story?

Have you ever felt like Jonah?

Ask God to give you insight into the story of Jonah as we study it this week.

Tuesday

Read Jonah chapter 1. Having heard a description of Nineveh in the weekend services, why do you suppose Jonah wanted to run? (Check all you think apply)

Fear of people Anger Felt incapable
 Rebellion Hatred Fear of failure
 Insecurity Other:

Has God ever asked you to do something you were afraid of, or felt incapable of? What happened?

Is God asking you to do something in your life *now* that you are running from for any of the reasons above?

Ask God for the courage to do what He is calling you to do today!

Wednesday

Read Jonah chapter 2. Some of the components of recovering from failure are listed below. What are the phrases Jonah uses that relate to each step?

-Admitting your desperate situation

-Asking God for help

-Adopting an attitude of praise

-Accepting God's grace

-Aligning myself with God's plan

Is there a way you have fallen recently? Go through these steps in prayer today and see how God empowers and forgives you too!

Thursday

Read Jonah chapter 3. Jonah finally goes to Nineveh, but then only preaches *half* the message. It's clear from his comments later in 4:2 that Jonah knew that the *whole* message was that God would extend mercy to the Ninevites if they turned to Him. But he leaves the good news out, opting instead to preach only judgment. Why do you suppose Jonah did this?

Jonah had a hard time forgiving the Ninevite nation for what they had done to his people. What individual or group do you sometimes have a hard time forgiving?

Is there any group you wish God would judge more quickly-- and, truth be told, you're a little upset, like Jonah, that God is delaying his judgment?

*Thank God today that He is slow to anger. Ask Him to help you clearly communicate both the **bad** news and the **good** news of the gospel-- not only are we all sinners who deserve judgment, but God is also eager to forgive and extend mercy to those who turn to Him.*

Friday

Read Jonah chapter 4. Who would you have a hard time seeing forgiven by God? Think about it: Is there anyone in your life... or any group or individual in the world... that you would struggle seeing in heaven? If so, why?

Read Matt. 18:23-35. How is Christ's parable similar to the lesson of the last chapter of Jonah?

What is the final sentence of Jonah? Why do you suppose the author of Jonah leaves us with Jonah angry at God, and God's question to him, rather than resolving the book happily?

Thank God today for His mercy on you! Ask Him to help you extend the same grace to others even as you tell them the complete gospel.

Saturday

Today, meditate on God's power to forgive you even when you bring the storms in your life on yourself. Thank Him for His grace! Please pray for the weekend services. Thanks!

Resources

Books used in the development of this message:

Greg Laurie, *The God of the Second Chance*

Gary Oliver, *How to Get It Right After You've Gotten It Wrong*