

Introduction:

In the movie "The Sandlot" the main character uses phrases such as the biggest mistake we ever made, or the biggest pickle I was ever in. What would you say is the biggest or toughest situation you ever faced? Being on a thin ledge a few hundred feet up? Or on a tractor about ready to roll over? Family problems, etc Lessons we can learn from **Jonah 2**.

I) Jonah 1

- A) Jonah called to go to Nineveh.
- B) Heads to Tarshish, Spain
- C) God causes a great storm on the sea
- D) Lots are cast and falls on Jonah
- E) Jonah is thrown over board

Jonah 1:17 Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

- F) Prepared – made ready, this was not by accident or just lucky timing. Suggest there was a purpose behind all of this.

1. This was a miraculous event. Jesus calls it a "sign".

Matthew 12:39 But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. **40** "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. **41** "The men of Nineveh will rise up in the

judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.

2. In the belly of a fish 3 days and 3 nights.
 - a. Fish big enough to swallow Jonah whole
 - b. How could Jonah breath?
 - c. He could not move
 - d. Jonah was alive and conscious but unable to do anything physically.

II) Jonah's Prayer

A) What's the most effective, powerful prayer position?

1. Standing, sitting, kneeling, etc. Telephone man said it was hanging upside down 40 feet up. Jonah's was in a fish.
2. ***Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-These, O God, You will not despise.***

Jonah 2:1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly. 2 And he said: "I cried out to the LORD because of my affliction, And He answered me. "Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, And You heard my voice. 3 For You cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the floods surrounded me; All Your billows and Your waves passed over me. 4 Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight; Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.' 5 The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head. 6 I went down to the moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars closed behind me

forever; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD, my God. 7 "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; And my prayer went up to You, Into Your holy temple. 8 "Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own Mercy. 9 But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD."

B) Jonah is praying!

1. **Chapter 1** we do not see Jonah praying at all.
2. Not when called to go to Nineveh, when going to Joppa, getting on a board for Tarshish, not in the stormy sea, not when he was about to be thrown overboard.
3. In the belly of a fish Jonah prays.

C) A prayer of thanksgiving

1. Belly of a fish was God's way of rescuing Jonah.
2. God prepared a fish not to destroy but to save Jonah.
3. God had delivered Jonah into the belly of the fish.
4. Notice how Jonah describes his descent to the bottom of the sea, **vv, 5-6**

D) Out of the belly he cried out, v 2

1. Sheol- realm of the dead, the grave
2. The Hebrews viewed it as being below the mountain.
3. Jonah runs from God, in the most hidden place in the world, at the bottom of the sea, **vv. 3-4,**
4. God could still hear him.

E) Jonah appeals to God!

Jonah 2:3 For You cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the floods surrounded me; All Your billows and Your waves passed over me.

1. Why? Why did God bring Jonah to this place?
2. To repent- similar to David's remorse over his sin with Bathsheba

Psalms 32:4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah ***5*** I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

F) Jonah's use of scriptures

Psalms 18:6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears.

Psalms 42:7 Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me.

Psalms 31:22 For I said in my haste, "I am cut off from before Your eyes"; Nevertheless You heard the voice of my supplications When I cried out to You.

G) Jonah acknowledged it was God who saved him.

Jonah 2:6 I went down to the moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars closed behind me forever; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD, my God.

1. The pit being the grave.
2. True repentance rewards by giving us hope.

2 Corinthians 7:10 *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.*

3. From the deepest pit, Jonah's prayer ascended to where God resides.

Jonah 2:7 *"When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; And my prayer went up to You, Into Your holy temple.*

H) Jonah's desire

Jonah 2:4 NKJV 4 *Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight; Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.'*

1. To once again be at the holy temple.
2. To offer sacrifice to God.

Jonah 2:9 *But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD."*

3. Jonah addresses those who worship idols,

Jonah 2:8 *"Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own Mercy.*

III) Application.

A) Have you ever been in the belly of a fish?

1. No but all of us have been in situations where we feel helpless, don't know what to do.
2. You might be like Jonah and your problem might actually be good.
 - a. Give you the opportunity to listen to God.

b. To repent and be like the prodigal son, **Luke 15.**

B) You cannot run away from God.

1. This can be a burden or a comfort.
2. God sees all and knows all. **2 Timothy 2.19**

C) Salvation is of God,

Jonah 2:9 NKJV 9 But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.

1. God saved Jonah from the sea.
2. God sent Jonah to preach to Nineveh to give them the opportunity to repent.
3. Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

Matthew 1:21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

Conclusion:

Jonah 2:10 So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land. Jonah had a second chance to serve God.