

## The prayer of JONAH'S PRAYER (Jonah 2:1-10)

- Prayer works because God answers prayer.
- Sometimes, testimonies of answered prayer seem to glorify the one who prayed and how he/she prayed.
- Without downplaying the principles of prayer {being in the right relationship with God, claiming the promises of God or praying according to the word of God, praying in the name of Jesus} we must remember that God answers prayer because He is good and His mercies endure forever.

## People who prayed in the Bible:

- a) Job contends for justice as he is caught in a spiritual context about his alliance to God
- b) Hannah prays for a break through, out of anguish of soul.

**9 After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. 10 She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. 11 And she vowed a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head." 12 As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. 13 Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. 14 And Eli said to her, "How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you." 15 But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul**

***before the LORD. 16 Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.” 1 Samuel 1: 9-16***

- c) David, Psalm 51, prayer of repentance for the sin of lust, adultery, murder and deception

***3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Psalm 51:3-4***

- d) A cry for mercy. Jonah Lord save me.

Why they prayed and how they prayed is very varied. It is difficult to argue that they all used the same formula, that is why God answered their prayer.

Prescribing and systematizing prayer can be confusing for the one who has a burden they are praying about.

### **Jonah's prayer:**

This prayer is a testimony.

Jonah did not have the composure to journal his prayer in the belly of the fish. He shares this latter.

#### **1. A cry- a call for help.**

***“I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, 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 flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. 4 Then I said, ‘I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.’ 5 The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head 6 at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon***

***me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God. Jonah 2:2-6***

He had this sense that his end had come. Vs 2, Vs 4, 5 & 6  
Lord save me. We can cry out:

- In debt
- In a troubled marriage
- In the prison- in an unfair system
- Under spiritual oppression

In such situations, like sinking Peter, the only prayer you may be able to pray is 'Lord save me' Lord have mercy

## **2. He was aware of God's hand in this. Vs 3**

"You cast me...."

"All your waves and your billows....."

***"Come let us return to the LORD; for He has torn us, that He may heal us; He has stuck us down, and He will bind us up. After two days, He will receive us: on the third day he will raise us up." Hosea 6:1-2***

- ✚ Jonah acknowledged the discipline of the Lord. Hebrews 12 says; God disciplines those He loves.

- ✚ Also here, God is putting Jonah in his rightful place.
  - If you don't humble yourself, God will humble you.
  - **"Behold I stand at the door and "bomb"**

In your walk with God, what are some of the hard lessons you have learned? **I heard about a sister in the Lord who was going through some tough experience as a single mother. She left her church for another. Her reason was, these people here are too happy for the realities of life.**

Think about that!

What are some of the hard lessons you have learned in life?

## **3. He prayed a prayer of hope Vs. 7-8**

***7 When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. 8 Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. Jonah 2:7-8***

- Here we see a change of heart:  
In chapter 1, Jonah is running from the presence of God. In chapter 2, he is longing for the Temple of God  
***10 For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. Psalms 84:10***
- Because he knows God, he can hope that God will restore him.  
(Jonah 4:1)
- Our ray of hope, when we are facing consequences of disobedience is that God remains faithful and merciful.  
David, prayed, let me fall in your hand. David had sinned by taking a census of Israel:  
***10 But David's heart struck him after he had numbered the people. And David said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O LORD, please take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have done very foolishly." 11 And when David arose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, 12 "Go and say to David, 'Thus says the LORD, Three things I offer<sup>5</sup> you. Choose one of them, that I may do it to you.'" 13 So Gad came to David and told him, and said to him, "Shall three years of famine come to you in your land? Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' pestilence in your land? Now consider, and decide what answer I shall return to him who sent me." 14 Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into the hand of man." 2 Samuel 24: 11-14.***  
Your theology will determine how you pray. Knowing God has merciful will teach you to run to Him and not away from Him, regardless of how broken you may be.

All the disciples betrayed Jesus, in that they all ran when Jesus needed them the most.

Just that only Peter was challenged to voice it out.

But, they all came back, one by one

Why did they come back? What made them come back?

The Answer is, they had no better person to go to.

#### 4. **Thanksgiving and rededication (Vs. 9)**

***9 But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!" Jonah 2:9***

- He is committed to fulfill His vow.
- He will not go back now that the challenge is behind Him.

In chapter 3 we will see that He is a willing servant.

**CONCLUSION: when facing consequences of sin, cry for mercy**