

Hard Lessons in Grace  
Jonah: God's Amazing Mercy, part 3  
Pastor Craig Ferguson

Now the Lord had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights.

*Jonah 1:17 (NLT)*

But I will offer sacrifices to you with songs of praise, and I will fulfill all my vows. For my salvation comes from the Lord alone. *Jonah 2:9 (NLT)*

And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

*Jonah 2:10*

*(NLT)*

Grace lessons learned in the belly of a whale

1. We deserve only condemnation

I cried out to the Lord in my great trouble, and he answered me. I called to you from the land of the dead, and Lord, you heard me! You threw me into the ocean depths, and I sank down to the heart of the sea. The mighty waters engulfed me; I was buried beneath your wild and stormy waves.

*Jonah 2:2-3 (NLT)*

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

*Romans 3:23*

*(NLT)*

2. We are incapable of saving ourselves

I sank down to the very roots of the mountains. I was imprisoned in the earth, whose gates lock shut

forever.

*(NLT)*

*Jonah 2:6*

For the wages of sin is death. *Romans 6:23 (NLT)*

3. God saves me at great cost to Himself

Then I said, 'O Lord, you have driven me from your presence. Yet I will look once more toward your holy Temple.'

*Jonah 2:4 (NLT)*

But you, O Lord my God, snatched me from the jaws of death! As my life was slipping away, I remembered the Lord. And my earnest prayer went out to you in your holy Temple.

*Jonah 2:7 (NLT)*

Through this process, he will purify the Most Holy Place, and he will do the same for the entire Tabernacle, because of the defiling sin and rebellion of the Israelites.

*Leviticus 16:16 (NLT)*

'He himself bore our sins' in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; 'by his wounds you have been healed.'

*1 Peter 2:24*

*(NIV)*

4. God mercifully works with us to understand grace

And my earnest prayer went out to you in your holy Temple. Those who worship false gods turn their backs on all God's mercies. But I will offer

sacrifices to you with songs of praise, and I will fulfill all my vows. For my salvation comes from the Lord alone.

*Jonah 2:7-9 (NLT)*

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*2 Peter*

*3:18 (NIV)*

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

*Philippians 1:6 (NLT)*