



PART 2: Winds and Waves, and the God Who Saves

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WARM UP QUESTION: Have you ever asked God for help in a difficult situation, even if you didn't really believe in Him? How did you respond when the situation was resolved?

READ: *Jonah 1:17, 2:1-10, 3:1-3, Mathew 12:39-41*

FOCUS: The God who saves by His Sovereignty and Grace deserves a right response.

OBSERVE:

- **God prepared Jonah for preaching to Nineveh.** By placing Jonah in such a difficult situation where only a miracle could save him, God gave him the opportunity to repent and turn back to God. When Jonah responded with repentance and was spewed onto dry land by the fish, God prepared him to be a powerful witness to God's saving power. Jonah's repentance, however, was incomplete, he didn't admit his sin.
- **God prepared Nineveh for Jonah's preaching:** Nineveh worshipped a fish idol, and had a prophecy that someone would come to them out of a fish, so they were more prepared to listen to Jonah because of his miraculous rescue. They worshipped a false idol but God prepared them to listen.
- **There is a right response to the God Who saves.**
 - Full repentance - turn away from your sin and towards God. Jonah's repentance was incomplete because he didn't admit his sin.

- Thanksgiving - praise God for His deliverance. Jonah's thanksgiving was incomplete because it was selfish. He still thought he was better than "the other" he was being sent to.
- Obedience - obey God's Will and purpose for your life. Jonah's obedience was incomplete, because although he now went to Nineveh, he didn't have love for "the other" as God did, he obeyed with faith but not love.
- **Jesus is a greater sign than Jonah.** In Mathew 12:39-41 Jesus identified with Jonah but made the distinction that He was "better than Jonah." Jonah obeyed reluctantly and imperfectly, Jesus obeyed willingly and perfectly.

REFLECT:

- Jonah's response to God's saving him had the right components, but was incomplete. How can you more completely embrace full repentance, unselfish thanksgiving, and obedience with love and faith?

TAKE ACTION:

- Identify a situation where you have been given a second chance to do the right thing.
- Pray for the right response, with full repentance, thanksgiving, and obedience.

PRAY:

Lord, thank You that You are the God who saves and that You always give me a second chance. Thank You for meeting me in difficult circumstances, even when they are of my own making. Help me to have a right response to Your Sovereignty and Grace. Help me to love "the other" because no one is beyond Your saving grace. Amen.

