

Jonah Part 2

Do You Want Mercy or Misery?

(Revised: 1/7/2014)

Jonah was told by God to go to Nineveh to preach the Gospel. He didn't want to go there because the Ninevites were considered enemies of Israel and Jonah was from Israel! He went in the opposite direction, hopped on a boat, experienced a huge storm, and was thrown into the sea. God, in His mercy,* delivered Jonah from the storm by having a large fish swallow him.** Fantastic way to be delivered! Then God had the big fish put Jonah back on dry land. God gave him another amazing delivery! After that God told him again to go to Nineveh. God desires to work out something amazing in the life of Jonah! *Mercy: kindness shown to the undeserving.

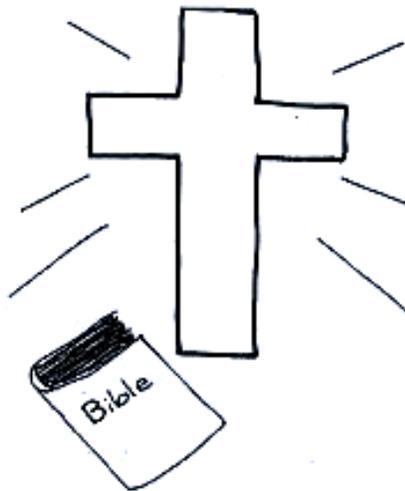
**Go to allaboardgodstrain.org and read, *Jonah Part 1, Focus on Commitment to Jesus Christ*



Philippians 1:6 *For I am confident of this very thing, that He [Father through the power of the Holy Spirit] who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*

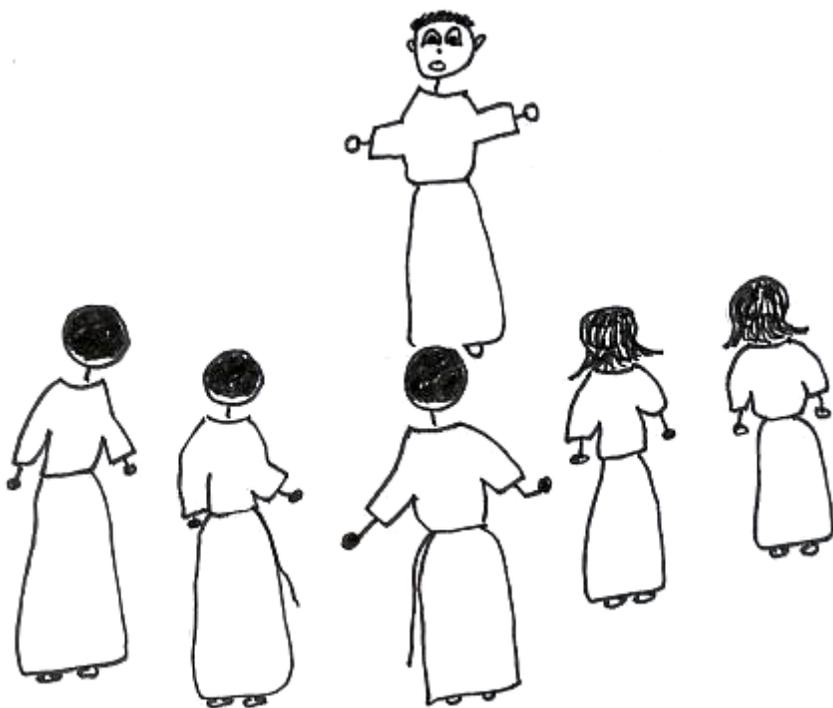
Anytime we complain about something in our lives we're saying, "God doesn't know what He's doing." Oh really? Look at what He did with Job * and Jonah. We just have to have faith in His word.** We can get through our sufferings if we rest in Jesus Christ and His thinking and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. God wants to work out something amazing in us also! Our old sin nature will constantly be fighting against our new nature.*** It doesn't want us to see the great mercy or grace God gives us! It doesn't want us to have stability, production and purpose in the plan of God. MERCY, MERCY, MERCY! God's mercy gives us freedom from ourselves! Accept His mercy and move forward!

*Go to allaboardgodstrain.org and read *Job's Faith*. **Read Hebrews 11:1-33. *** Read *Newness of Life in Christ*.



1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable [your stability increases], always abounding in the work of the Lord [your production increases], knowing that your toil is not *in vain* [your sense of purpose increases].in the Lord.

God understands our pitfalls and has designed a plan that lets us succeed despite them. Jonah 3:1 *Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you."* God wanted Jonah to tell the Ninevites to change their thinking and wicked ways. They were to believe in God or in forty days their great city of Nineveh would be overthrown. Help! Jonah went to Nineveh and taught them. The people believed in God; 120,000 Ninevites turned from their wicked ways. Fantastic! God saved the city of Nineveh from destruction. God had mercy on the Ninevites.



Jonah 3:10 "When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do *it*."

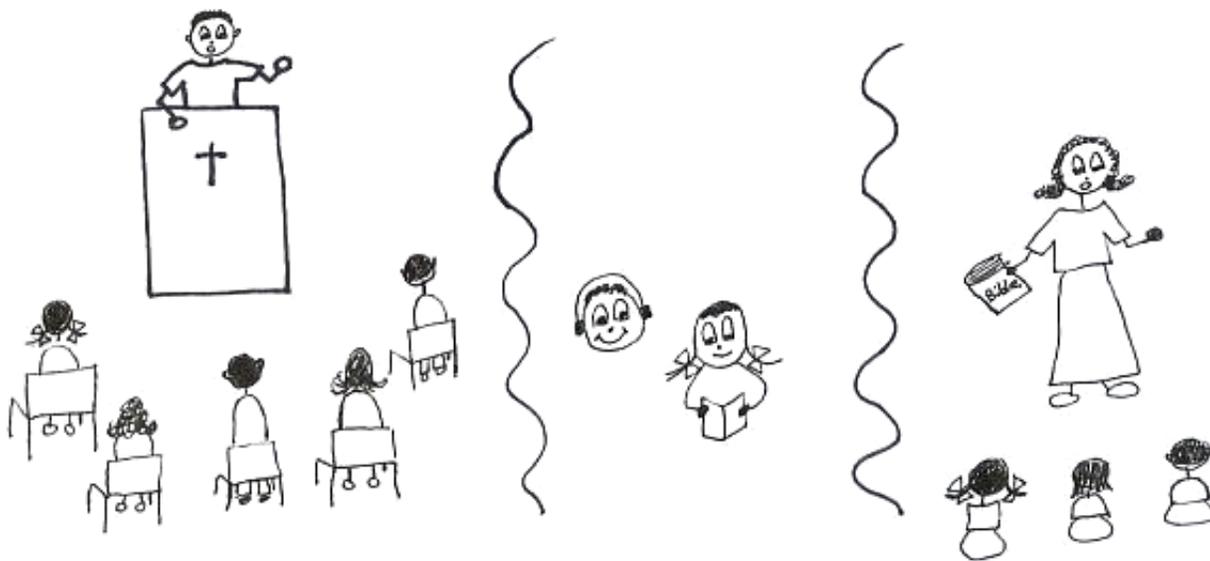
Jonah was upset because God had mercy or compassion on the Ninevites. Jonah wanted God to have mercy on him, but not on his enemies! In fact, he wanted to be an obstacle to the repentance of the Ninevites. Jonah was very honest with God and told Him this was the reason he didn't go to Nineveh in the first place. The Ninevites were a stumbling block for Jonah. They were his worst enemies! He did not want to have mercy on them. He did not want to treat them kindly and be compassionate! Jonah was acting on his emotions rather than on the thinking of Christ!



Jonah 4:1 But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry.

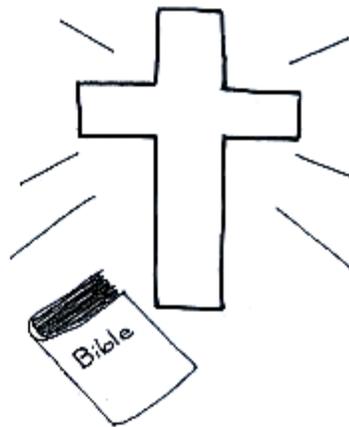
Read Jonah 4:2-3

However, God wants all of us to learn to treat our friends and our enemies with mercy! First we have to learn through His word about God's mercy with us. We have to see that God IS mercy. God IS kindness! Every Bible study lesson will in some way show God's mercy and grace. God's word and the filling of the Holy Spirit will teach us to have a lifestyle of mercy and grace. We can learn to use it most of the time with everyone, not just certain people! Sure, we'll stumble too like Jonah did. Our old sin nature hates mercy and grace; it is extremely unmerciful! Every chance it gets it will try to turn us away from God's mercy and grace. That's one of the reasons we need to grow in the knowledge and grace of God!



Galatians 5:14-15 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

God wants us to plug into the system of His mercy! This is another thing He uses to set us free from self-induced misery! We can't do it ourselves; we need to use the word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to use the thinking of Christ. His thinking can push out the thinking of our unmerciful old sin nature. When we are unkind to others, when we don't show them mercy, we make ourselves miserable. How stupid! When we show mercy, the people may know it or they may not, but we are delivered from self-induced misery! What freedom! We can be happy no matter who receives the mercy. God will show us levels of mercy and grace we've never seen or experienced before.



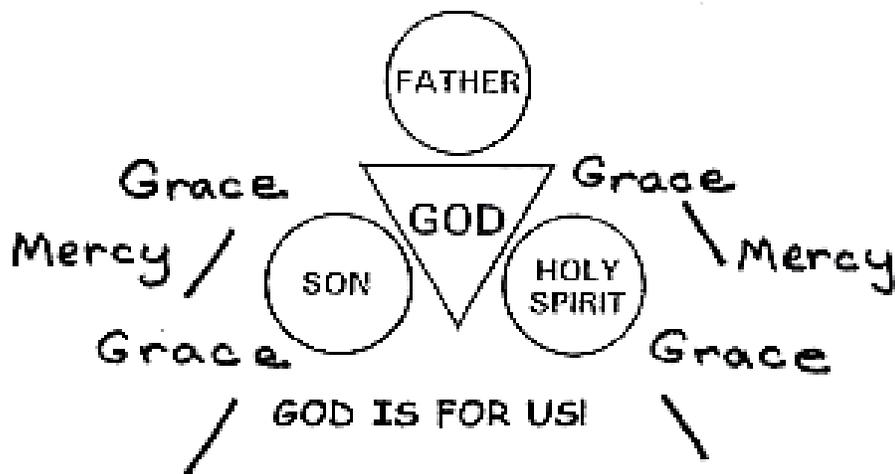
Awesome!

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful [living in the sphere of mercy], for they shall receive mercy.

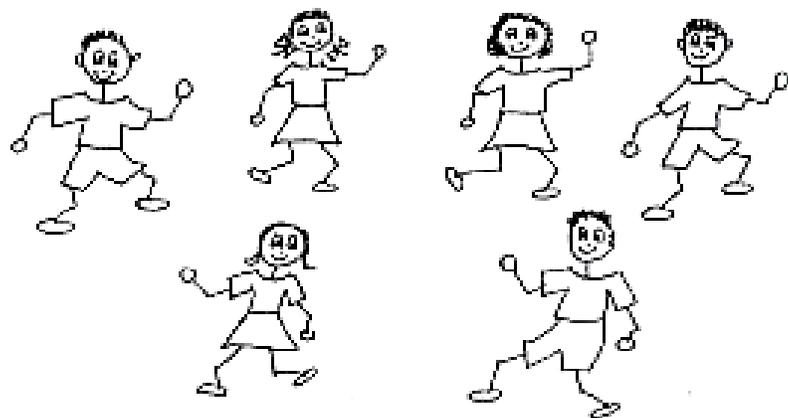
Proverbs 11:17 The merciful man does himself good, but the cruel man does himself harm.



We can experience God's mercy or our own misery. No one wants to be miserable, but we seem to constantly choose it for ourselves. We use our human viewpoint instead of God's divine viewpoint. We have miserable thoughts and do miserable actions! Ouch! When we learn to be responsible for our thoughts and actions we can accept God's mercy and move on from the misery! God first delivers us in our thoughts through the power of the Holy Spirit and His word in our souls! Then we can relax! He may then deliver us from the situation or He may not. The best part is, as we grow in the knowledge of God, we grow in His grace and mercy!* His wisdom can take us out of our misery and into His mercy or kindness and compassion!

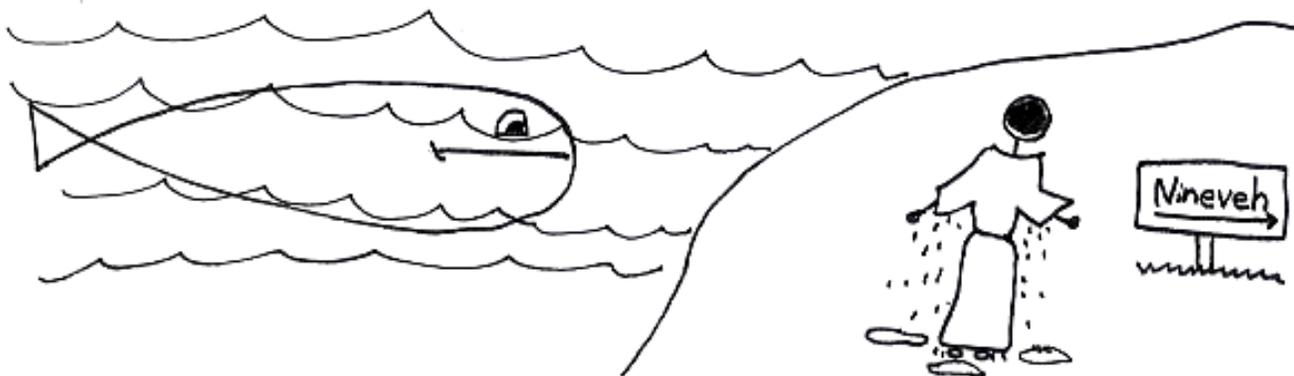


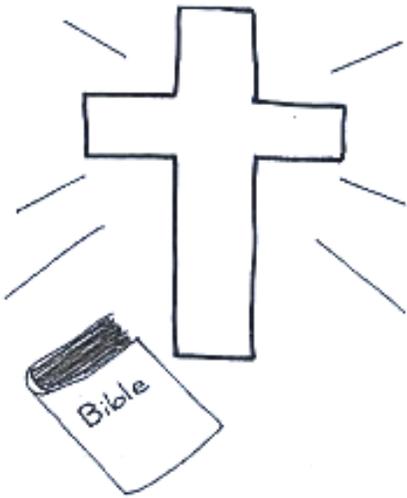
2 Peter 3:18 ...but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.



Points To Remember

1. God delivered Jonah from the storm and the big fish; He then told him again to go to Nineveh.
2. Any time we complain about something in our lives we are saying, "God doesn't know what He is doing."
3. God understands our pitfalls and has designed a plan that lets us succeed despite them.
4. Jonah was upset because God had mercy on the Ninevites.
5. God wants all of us to learn to treat our friends and our enemies with mercy.
6. God wants us to plug into the system of His mercy.
7. We can experience God's mercy or our own misery.





Questions For Discussion

1. How Did God deliver Jonah?
2. Does God ever not know what He is doing?
3. What tries to get us away from the mercy and grace of God?
4. How can we get through our sufferings?
5. Does God understand us?
6. Why did God want Jonah to go to Nineveh?
7. Why didn't Jonah want to go to Nineveh?
8. Did Jonah want God's mercy?
9. Is mercy something we can just decide to have and then we have it? How do we experience God's mercy?

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Jonah Part 2

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References: Eusebeia Bible Church

www.eusebeia.org

Pastor Ed Collins

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