

WHEN I'M COMPASSED ABOUT WITH FLOODS
(Jonah 2:4-9)

I. Look again to the temple (vs. 4).

- A. Jonah had gotten himself into this mess.
 - 1. It was his sin that led to God's punishment of hi.
 - 2. He was the one that ran away from God.
- B. At some point in the belly of the fish, Jonah came to realize that he was not going to die there.
 - 1. When that realization came about, he decided that he needed to be right with God.
 - 2. Verse 2 tells us that he cried out and God heard him.
- C. After having obtained forgiveness, there was a desire to look to the temple.
 - 1. The temple was the place of worship for a Jew.
 - 2. He expressed a desire to worship God in the midst of a flood.
- D. Worship of God by a heart that is seeking God, whether in pain or repentance, is a great soother of woes.
 - 1. In this case, Jonah knew he needed to worship God.
 - 2. Do you remember what Paul and Silas were doing in the middle of a flood life brought on them?
 - 3. A good Christian family not to long ago lost their father and grandfather.
 - a. The day he died the family was gathered in his room crying and being very emotional as many would.
 - b. After a while, one of the men of the family got the family to sing songs of praise to God.
 - c. After this the crying stopped and they enjoyed a time of praise and worship together in the midst of death.
- E. When things are going wrong in life, whether caused by us or not, worshipping God is a source of great comfort in the midst of a flood.

II. Pray to God (vs. 7).

- A. When things looked grim for Jonah, he prayed to God.
 - 1. Again, this was his own fault.
 - 2. However, he had presence of mind to take his problems and penitent spirit to God.
- B. We are to be a people of prayer.
 - 1. Jesus taught His followers to pray and not give up (Luke 18:1).
 - 2. We are to cast our cares upon God(1 Peter 5:7).
- C. Again, remember Paul and Silas.
- D. We sing songs about the necessity of prayer.
- E. We pay it lip service, but are we truly giving heed to its power?
- F. Our Father wants us to pray to Him (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
 - 1. Jesus is involved in our prayer life, praying through Him as our Mediator.
 - 2. The Holy Spirit is involved in our prayer life, as we studied in our

- adult Bible class this morning.
- 3. All three members of the Godhead are involved in our prayers.
- 4. This shows us how much the Godhead wants to be involved in our lives.
- G. When storms come, we are to go to God with them.
 - 1. If we cause the storm, it is through prayer that we repent and confess our sins (Acts 8:22).
 - 2. If life has caused the storm, it is to God we are to turn through prayer for help.
- H. Jonah was there in the belly of the fish, with sea weed wrapped around him praying to God.
- I. We ought to be people who follow the words of Paul and be instant in prayer (Romans 12:12).
 - 1. If we think there is a problem, we ought to be praying.
 - 2. Then, if there is no problem, we ought to be praying telling God thank you for there not being a problem.

III. **Pay what we've vowed (vs. 9).**

- A. Under the Mosaic Law, there were sacrifices of thanksgiving to be offered to God.
 - 1. Leviticus 7 and 22 talk about these offerings.
 - 2. Psalm 107:22 And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.
- B. Jonah promised to pay what he had vowed.
 - 1. He would also need to offer sacrifices of atonement.
 - 2. He had sinned and now promised to pay what he had vowed.
- C. When a storm of life comes that we have caused, through repentance, we need to remember that we left off keeping a vow we had made and that needs to change.
 - 1. When we were baptized, we vowed we would live for God, putting our will under His.
 - 2. Repentance, is a remembering of that vow, an acknowledgment that the vow was broken and a decision to turn back to the keeping of that vow.
- D. When storms not of our causing come, we need to remember the vow we made and continue to pay to God what we owe Him.
 - 1. Storms of life are not causes for defeats of faith.
 - 2. They are times when rededication to and strengthening of the vows to God should be made.
- E. We serve a great God who wants us to make it safe through storms.
- F. Living faithfully for Him or coming back to Him during those storms allow us to do just that.