

Everyday FAITH Family Page

H2Oh!

Law/Gospel

I love mercy when I benefit from it, but if I think someone is evil, I don't want God's mercy to extend to that person.

Fortunately, God's desire to make His mercy known wins the day, and though I don't deserve it, God shows the same mercy to me that He shows to others.

Bible Words

For You, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love. Psalm 86:5

Oh, Nineveh!

- Nineveh, ancient Assyria's capital, lay east of the Tigris River in northern present-day Iraq.
- Nineveh flourished in 700 BC under Assyrian emperor Sennacherib. He invaded Judah during Hezekiah's reign. Lachish reliefs record the plunder Judah paid.
- In 2015, ISIS looted and smashed archaeological treasures in Mosul (built over Nineveh's ruins) from the Mosul museum and the Tomb of the Prophet Jonah as well as a 2,700-year-old wall.

Fishy

The Hebrew word translated as "fish" in Jonah 1:17 can refer to any sea creature.

H2Oh! Ride: Jonah

Jonah 1–3

When God told Jonah to preach repentance to the people in Nineveh, he hopped a boat in the opposite direction. Jonah did not want to preach to the Assyrians. He wanted these evil, bloodthirsty people to die, not repent. He didn't want God to show mercy. He wanted them to burn.

When Jonah finally preached God's Word, the Ninevites turned away from evil. God forgave them and spared them and their cattle. Rather than rejoice in the success of his work, Jonah felt angry. He sat outside the city and waited for God's destruction.

Fish Bait

Running from God, Jonah boarded a ship from Joppa to Tarshish. The Lord sent a mighty storm. Sailors cried out to their gods and took defensive measures. The men cast lots to find whose actions caused the storm and identified Jonah. Admitting his rift with God, Jonah told the men to throw him overboard. When they hurled Jonah into the sea, the storm stopped.

The Lord sent a great fish to swallow Jonah. He spent three days and nights in the fish's belly, praying. This three-day "entombment" foreshadowed Christ's death and resurrection. Jesus said, "For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matthew 12:40).

God's Powerful Word

God's Word convicts, showing that we are born in sin and cannot please God or save ourselves. The Word drives us to repent (admit and turn away from sin) so that we can receive by faith the forgiveness for our sins and salvation won for us by Jesus' death and resurrection.

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith" (Romans 3:23–25).

Prayer

Jesus, by Your Word, give us faith to receive Your forgiveness of sin and eternal life. Amen.

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