



Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 9 October 2022 Jonah #3

Please read Jonah 2.1-10

1. What struck you most from Sunday's sermon?

"Jonah is a story of a prodigal prophet, but you don't have to be a rebellious runaway to be a prodigal – you can be sat in church each week and still be a prodigal!

Any church that teaches people that God's love is like that of an indulgent parent – never prepared to discipline His children when they choose disobedience or lukewarmness – is doing a dangerous disservice to God and us. God loves us more (and better) than that."

2. What do you think about this?

Please read again Jonah 2.1

3. Why do you think it took Jonah so long before he 'prayed to the Lord his God'? Why does it take us a while at times too?

Jonah 2. 3 You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me.

This is the Active Loving Discipline of God – seen both in the Storm (to stop him running) and in the Confinement in the fish (to get him reflecting – then responding)

4. Why don't we always react well to God's parental discipline in our lives?
5. What is the difference between discipline and punishment?
6. As I mentioned in the sermon – there are many possible reasons for 'storms' or 'confinements' in our lives. How might we be able to discern if a particular 'storm' or 'confinement' in our lives is God's loving discipline rather than something else?

Please read again Jonah 2.2,4

7. How is this experience more like rehab than prison?

Please read again Jonah 2.5-7; along with Psalm 130.1-4 and Psalm 40.1-4

8. This is the story of every prodigal in all our rehab experiences – take a moment to give God thanks that he loves us enough to discipline us in love.

Please read again Jonah 2.8, and John 15.9-11

9. As Jonah reflected on his own life – what are the 'worthless idols' he was clinging to? And how had they tempted him to choose to turn away from God's love?
10. How about us?

Please read again Jonah 2.9-10

11. How is Jonah's story a warning and an encouragement to us?