



Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 23 October 2022 Jonah #5

Please read Jonah 3.10 – 4.11

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

Jonah 2. 8 *"Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them... I will say, 'Salvation comes from the Lord.'"*. One of the main purposes of the book of Jonah is to train us to identify and remove the idol of our pride and self-entitlement, and to learn to know and live in God's grace.

2. What do you think about the way in which – and the variety of ways in which – God deals with Jonah to help him to grow in grace?
3. What does this process of God's dealings with Jonah reveal about God? What does it reveal about Jonah (us)?

Please read Jonah 4.11; Matthew 9.35-36; Luke 13.34; Luke 23.33-35

4. How does Jesus exemplify the wideness of God's mercy and the depth of God's grace?

Tim Keller says, *"Understanding God's grace is vital – it's what sets Christianity apart from all other faiths. It is the central message at the heart of the Gospel. It is knowing God's grace, and standing on God's grace, and living out God's grace that makes a person live as a Jesus-follower and not just as a moral or religious or nice person. Grace transforms a believer."*

5. What do you think?

Please read Luke 6.27-36

It's ok to struggle being around those who have wronged you, or are toxic to you, or are your enemy. It's not ok not to try to love them as Jesus loves us.

6. What are the things that stop or restrict you from trying to love others in this way?

In the book of Jonah we have addressed many important themes -

The Commitment of God to his wandering people

The Call of God on our lives – that it is not up for negotiation

The Danger of being Spiritually Checked Out when we need to be Spiritually Switched-On

The Discipline of God for His People – storm / fish – for our betterment not our punishment

The idols we cling on to – Jonah's pride and sense of entitlement – 'my will, not Yours'

The Mercy of God - to the welcome and restore the repentant prodigal

The Divine Judgement of God on the City, and the Hope of Grace – for all who respond

The Wideness of God's Mercy and the Depth of His Grace

7. How is God speaking to you? What is your response to God?