



Rules of a Rescue

Jonah 2:1-10 (HCSB)

Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from inside the fish: I called to the Lord in my distress, and He answered me. I cried out for help in the belly of Sheol; You heard my voice. ³ You threw me into the depths, into the heart of the seas, and the current overcame me. All Your breakers and Your billows swept over me. ⁴ But I said: I have been banished from Your sight, yet I will look once more toward Your holy temple. ⁵ The waters engulfed me up to the neck; the watery depths overcame me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. ⁶ I sank to the foundations of the mountains; the earth with its prison bars closed behind me forever! But You raised my life from the Pit, Lord my God! As my life was fading away, I remembered Yahweh. My prayer came to You, to Your holy temple. ⁸ Those who cling to worthless idols forsake faithful love, ⁹ but as for me, I will sacrifice to You with a voice of thanksgiving. I will fulfill what I have vowed. Salvation is from the Lord! ¹⁰ Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

God's rescue comes when:

1. We still believe fish stories.

1 Corinthians 4:20 (NIV)

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

2. We remember the Lord. (Jonah 2:7a)

- We all are prone to suffer from spiritual amnesia.

3. There is confession. (Jonah 2:2; Jonah 2:8)

- God's rescue comes when we stop blaming and take responsibility.
- The most seductive, deceptive, and attractive idol in the world is the idol of self.

4. There is commitment. (Jonah 2:9)

- God's rescue comes to those who are willing to obey the first assignment.
- First of our time.
- First of our treasure.
- First of our talent.
- God's word is clearer to us than it was to Jonah.