



Thanksgiving

Lessons from Jonah

Introduction:

A trip to Wal-Mart was probably the furthest thing from Jonah's mind when he used the word while praying to God from the belly of a whale!

Text: Jonah 2:1-10

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God.

He said:

**In my distress I called to the LORD,
and he answered me.**

**From the depths of the grave I called
for help, and you listened to my cry.**

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

I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.'

**The engulfing waters threatened me,
the deep surrounded me; seaweed
was wrapped around my head.**

**To the roots of the mountains I sank
down; the earth beneath barred me
in forever. But you brought my life up
from the pit, O LORD my God.**

When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.

Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.

**But I, with a song of thanksgiving,
will sacrifice to you. What I have
vowed I will make good. Salvation
comes from the LORD.**

**And the LORD commanded the fish,
and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.**

Jonah 2:1-10

Jonah's prayer demonstrates that it's never too **SOON** to give thanks to God (vs1-2). You don't have to **WAIT** for things to get **BETTER.**

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The belly of a whale is a:

DARK place — there's no **LIGHT** there.

CONFINING place—there's no
FREEDOM there.

ROTTEN, SMELLY place — there's
no **PLEASURE** there.

Jonah's prayer demonstrates that it's never too **LATE** to give thanks to God (vs7).

Life that is ebbing away is still life that has possibilities!

In the most **HOPELESS** of circumstances, it is still possible to:

EXPERIENCE God in a powerful way (vs4).

Believe in God's ability to work miracles of

HEALING and

DELIVERANCE (vs6).

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A spirit of Thanksgiving:

RESTORES our own **HOPE** and
JOY.

Brings **GLORY** to God because it is actually
a form of **PRAISE.**

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Leaves a profound **IMPRESSION** upon
others.

Conclusion:

We think blessings result in a spirit of thanksgiving.

Could it be that a spirit of thanksgiving results in blessing?



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