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Your Best Failure
Jonah 2

Jonah 1:15-17 *So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging. 16 Then the men feared the LORD greatly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows. 17 And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.*

Responding to Failure:

Jonah 2:1-10 *Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the stomach of the fish, 2 and he said, "I called out of my distress to the LORD, and He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice. 3 For You had cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the current engulfed me. All Your breakers and billows passed over me. 4 So I said, 'I have been expelled from Your sight. Nevertheless I will look again toward Your holy temple.' 5 Water encompassed me to the point of death. The great deep engulfed me, weeds were wrapped around my head. 6 I descended to the roots of the mountains. The earth with its bars was around me forever, but You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God. 7 While I was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to You, into Your holy temple. 8 Those who regard vain idols forsake their faithfulness, 9 but I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the LORD." 10 Then the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.*

I. _____

- Jonah could have just given up.

II. _____ in the Lord (Vs. 5-8)

- Not in ourselves and our vain idols.
- *Those who regard vain idols forsake their faithfulness.*

III. **Receive** _____ (Vs. 9-10)

- The greatest failure is to refuse grace.
- *Salvation is from the LORD.*

How do you respond to failure?

- At Work / School:
- In Relationships / Marriage?
- With Your Finances?
- With Your Relationship with Jesus?

Point:

Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!

1. When have you failed? When have you felt like you were in the belly of a fish? When have you failed God?
2. When you fail, what are you tempted to trust in to get you out?
3. How do you respond to failure? Work, Relationships, Finances, Spiritual.
4. How have you experienced God as bigger than your failures?



If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/ Pastor Todd about your relationship with Christ, please email pastortodd@thevineva.org or call 703.819.7795 to set up an appointment.