

JONAH

**You Can't
Outrun Grace**



Street Level Christianity SERIES

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1st edition 2017

Published by



PO BOX 551792
Dallas, TX 75355-1792

Printed in the United States

ABOUT THE **AUTHOR**

Dr. Paul David Tripp is a pastor, author and conference speaker. He is the president of Paul Tripp Ministries and works to connect the transforming power of Jesus Christ to everyday life.

This vision has led Paul to write many books on Christian living and travel around the world speaking at events. Paul's driving passion is to help people understand how the gospel of Jesus Christ speaks with practical hope into all the things people experience in this broken world.



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THREE

Do you know God's uncomfortable grace?

The story of Jonah puts two seemingly unrelated attributes of God's character together: anger and grace. As they intertwine in Jonah's story we see how both are necessary for our redemption. God is merciful, and he shows us his anger so that we can begin to surrender to the grace of the one who is our only hope. Grace is more than a tender touch of relief. Grace is uncomfortable.

But the Lord hurled a great wind on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish.

And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will

quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.” Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. Therefore they called out to the Lord, “O Lord, let us not perish for this man’s life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you.” So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. **Jonah 1:4-17 (ESV)**

1) Does God’s anger bother you? Why?

2) How is God’s anger different than your anger? What is the purpose of God’s anger?

“A world without God’s anger is utterly unlivable.”

3) On the cross, the anger and grace of God come together. The anger of God rests on Christ so that we would be shown grace. Is God angry with your personal sin? How does God show you grace every day?

“Don’t confuse theological knowledge and biblical literacy with spiritual maturity...You don’t just think your theology; you live your theology.”

4) How do God’s holy anger and grace change your view of yourself and your view of others? How should this change the way you live? Be specific.

5) Do difficulty and hardship in your life change your view of God? How do you try to “lighten the load” or cast blame?

“Helplessness is the doorway to hope.”

6) God is gracious enough to make us uncomfortable. In hardship, he softens our hearts and shows us the futility of our own wisdom and strength. Have you encountered God’s uncomfortable grace? List some practical ways that you can rely on His wisdom, strength, and righteousness more this week.



STREET LEVEL TRUTH ::

If you're not suffering now, you're near someone who is. If you're not suffering now, you will someday. One of the reasons you will suffer is because He loves you. He will use that difficulty to soften your heart and to bring you to the end of yourself, so that you put your faith in Him. Redemption is about the anger and grace of God coming together for our good, for our rescue, and for our forgiveness.

PRAYER ::

Lord, thank you for your redemption in Christ. We see the power of your anger in a storm that made seasoned sailors afraid. We see that anger is not meant for condemnation, or our judgment, but for our redemption. Thank you for Jesus, who willingly received the storm of your anger so that grace would flow to us. Thank you. In Jesus' name, amen.

MEMORY VERSE ::

2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV)

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

