

Mercy's Irrevocable Call (Jonah 2:10-3:2)

I. Introduction

- A. **Recall** - definition to revoke, annul, OR to restore, revive
- B. Review of the narrative of Jonah
- C. In what use of the word will Jonah be recalled?
- D. Reading the text and setting the course for the message

II. Mercy's undying call (Jonah 2:10-3:1)

- A. The *big fish* as an instrument of mercy in Jonah's life
 - 1. It saved his life and taught him of grace
 - 2. dark providence in our life that is actually God's mercy
 - 3. God's prodigal mercy leads Jonah to repentance
- B. *God spoke to the fish* – and unlike Jonah, the fish obeyed
- C. *and the fish vomited Jonah onto dry land*
- D. *Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time*
 - 1. Num 32:23 - now saved, will God keep Jonah on the shelf?
 - 2. No stipulations or warnings to Jonah's second call
 - 3. Israel – an example of God's undying call (Ro 11:28-29)
 - 4. God's promises to His people are 'yea and amen!'
- E. God's promises to His people are '*yea and amen!*'
 - 1. The surety of salvation: 1 Thess 5:24, Philippians 1:6, Lam 3:23, Heb 12:2, Titus 1:2, Heb 10:23

III. Mercy's unchanging call (Jonah 3:1)

- A. God is *unchanging*; God's purposes are *unchanging*
 - 1. Num 23:19, 2 Pet 3:9, Mal 3:6, James 1:17, Ez 24:14
 - 2. This has always been God's way of dealing with man
 - a. Adam, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David (Ps 89:35-37)
 - b. Peter (John 21:15-17)
- B. Three important caveats concerning the *unchanging call*
 - 1. This call does not refer to gifts of nature or providence
 - 2. This call does not refer to gifts of ministerial office
 - 3. This call does not refer to a *general* call to salvation
 - a. Please do not rest on a once-professed faith!

IV. Mercy's call is unreasonable (Jonah 3:2)

- A. The Gospel call is a call to suffering, persecution and death
 - 1. Jesus' unreasonable call to Peter (John 21:18)
 - 2. Jesus' unreasonable call to Paul (Acts 9:15-16)
 - 3. Jesus' call to discipleship (Matt 16:24)
 - 4. God's unreasonable call to Isaiah (Is 6:9-13)
 - 5. God's unreasonable call to Jonah (Jonah 3:2)
 - 6. God's unreasonable call to you (Matt 16:25)
 - 7. Mercy's unreasonable call is the only thing that ends up reasonable in the end