

Reflections on Jonah—by Mel Chin

Jonah—A tale of a disobedient prophet running off to sea, swallowed up by a big fish and then finally turning back in obedience to God. At least that's what I thought until 4 weeks ago. I've been going through Jonah in Women's Group, SOS West and sitting through sermons on Sundays and I can honestly say I'm so ashamed at how wrong I've been about the book of Jonah in the past. So here is my biggest takeaway from Jonah so far.

My awe of God's grace is only as great as my awareness of my own sins.

In Jonah 1 and 2, we learnt about how Jonah was outraged at the thought of God showing mercy and saving the nation of Nineveh. He did not want the nation of Nineveh to repent because he felt they were not deserving of God's salvation. Hypocrisy much? Jonah was so self-righteous about his own salvation, probably based on his entitlement as a Jew and felt that he deserved God's Hesed (covenantal steadfast love) love more than others.

It has been very uncomfortable and challenging the past few bible studies as I slowly realised that I am actually a Jonah. What Pastor Ben said in his sermon last week really struck me: Jonah is not meant to be someone for us to look down on, rather Jonah should be a mirror that reflects how we are actually like him in our sinful self and with our flawed faith.

It was an embarrassing moment (much needed blow to my pride) when I realised that I've been seeing myself as a "middle-class" Christian—someone who is not perfect, but not that bad either. And because I'm not that evil or that disobedient, I kind of deserve and am entitled to God's grace and salvation. This led to two big heart issues.

Firstly, I never really understood the depth of God's grace. Yes I was thankful that God saved me, but I was never really in awe and thankfulness of His grace and mercy and so could never fully grasp the magnitude of Jesus' sacrifice and work on the cross. It felt like I was constantly taking God's grace for granted.

Secondly, not seeing the depth of my sinful self meant that I had become self-righteous. I believed that I 'sort of' deserved salvation from God because of my good works and so continued to subconsciously think that I can work my way to gain God's favour and blessing. It also meant that even when I did admit my sins, I was never truly repentant nor did I really grieve over the mistakes I'd made. Because deep in my heart it always seemed like it can't be that bad right?

So I'm really thankful that studying Jonah has pointed out these ugly prideful truths in my heart. If not, who knows what I'll be like few years down the road as these lies continue to grow and fester in my heart. So please pray with me that the Holy Spirit will continue to work and transform my heart and my life so that one day I can truly acknowledge and be disgusted at the ugliness of my sinful self and be overwhelmed with thankfulness and awe of God's abundant and undeserving grace towards me.

In other news, if you will like to dig deeper into the book of Jonah with someone, please feel free to reach out to your fellowship group leaders, drop Pastors Ben or Steve an email, join us at WG or SOS West or even come say hi to me! We will love to sit and chat with you about what we've been learning in the book of Jonah and even do it again with you if you like :)



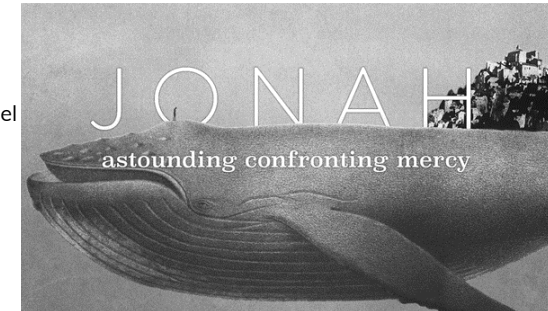
08 March 2020 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.

This Week: Jonah — Astounding Mercy

God shows astounding mercy to even the most wicked who turns to God in true repentance. How astounding is God's mercy! So, respond to the gospel with belief and repentance. So, keep preaching the gospel, calling for belief and repentance.



Next Week: Jonah 4

Today's Service

Welcome and Singing

The Saving One
Have Mercy on Me
Before the Throne of God
Above

Holy Communion

Offering

Community News

Bible Reading Jonah 3; Matthew 12:38-42

Sermon By Pastor Ben Ho

Song of Response His Mercy is More

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83 Ryans Road, St Lucia 4067

Check out sle.church/groups to find a group that you can join.

Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Our Pastors

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Financial Update

Last Week	\$3,225.90
Weekly Required (adjusted)	\$6,363.00
Shortfall 2020	\$3,690.00

Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

A/C Name:	SLE Church
Bank:	National Australia Bank
BSB:	084-424
A/C No:	396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

Prayer Points

PRAISE GOD FOR HIS RICH, ABUNDANT SAVING MERCY! Praise God that we, who clearly do not deserve or have earned God's favour, have received mercy. Praise God that we do not receive what we deserve: judgement and death. Praise God that we can, with profound assurance, enjoy the mercy and grace found in Jesus.

PRAY THAT WE WOULD NOT PRESUME UPON GOD'S GRACE. Pray that we would not become immune to how much we have been saved from, how great God is, how awesome is His grace in Christ. Pray that we would keep being clear about the gospel, encourage each other in this news, and prayerfully and joyfully live in obedience to God.

PRAY FOR THE CURRENT PANIC SURROUNDING THE COVID-19 VIRUS. Pray that Christians, especially, would lead in not responding with fear or anxiety. Pray that we would be wise about what we share online, through Whatsapp/messenger, that we would not contribute to the panic. Pray that we would show that we trust our sovereign God to be in control of all things.

PRAY FOR THE UPCOMING BLOOM AND GRUNT EVENTS. Pray that the men and women of our church, across all generations, would value these opportunities to cross fellowship paths and encourage older and younger generations alike. Pray for the organizing committees to put these events together well. Pray for the speakers to prepare faithfully and speak clearly.

Community News

CHURCH-WIDE TRAINING 15 MARCH 1:45PM-3:30PM NORTH HALL

Title: Striving Side-by-Side for the Gospel—Unity and partnership in SLE Church 2020 and Beyond.

Strongly encouraging ALL Leaders and those who are committed to the medium and long term future of this church to attend.

More information can be found on communications that have gone out during the week—emails, FB announcements.

FIRST BLOOM SESSION OF THE YEAR – TITUS 2 TIME

21 March, Saturday. 1:30-4pm. North Hall

Register: <https://sle.church/groups/bloom/>

GRUNT EVENT—MEN'S MINISTRY

4 April, 8am for coffee/breakfast. 9am start North Hall

'The Man in the Home: what the Bible says about our roles as Fathers, Husbands, and Sons.'

EASTER SUNDAY BAPTISM 12 APRIL

Please speak to the pastors if interested.

SAVE THE DATE—

SPECIAL DAY CONFERENCE 9 MAY

A special Day Conference presented by The Gospel Coalition Australia, together with Queensland Theological College, will be held on Saturday 9 May. The link provides further details: <https://www.qtc.edu.au/event/facing-a-task-unfinished>

SLE Church will be organizing a church group registration and discount. Please keep an eye out for that information.

Serving

	Today	Next Sunday
Chair	Randy	Simeon
Prayer	Randy <i>Randy</i>	Winnie <i>Winnie/Simeon</i>
Preach	Ps Ben	Ps Steven
Bible Read	Matthew <i>Alan</i>	Jansen <i>Dan Lowe</i>
M.Tea	Winnie T., Alice Huynh	Marie, Karilyn
Wash Up	Saturday YF	Saturday YF
Welcome	Ken Steph Esther <i>Sonja, Andrew</i>	Ken Steph Esther <i>Ben, Andrew</i>
Stewards	<i>Marilyn, Sean</i> <i>Jun Hao</i> Sunny Philip Graham <i>Edwina</i> <i>Aaron</i> <i>Alan</i>	<i>Marilyn, Sean</i> <i>Jun Hao</i> Sunny Philip Graham <i>Edwina</i> <i>Aaron</i> <i>Alan</i>
Piano	Liesl	Dan Lowe
Guitar	Jabez	Shao Peng
Bass	Kevin	Shaun
Drums	Nigel	Ivan
Vocal	SwEE Vien	Amanda
PA	William <i>Matt T., Millie</i>	Matt Chen <i>Daniel</i>

3. Jonah—Astounding Mercy [Jonah 3]

1. Introduction

2. God’s Mercy: Jonah’s Second Chance

3. Nineveh: The Great City

4. God’s Mercy: Warning of Impending Judgement

5. Ninevite Repentance
a. Believe

b. Grieve

c. Change

d. Humble Hope

6. God’s Mercy: Holding Back Judgement

7. Jonah 3 and Jesus
a. The ‘sign’ of Jonah (Matthew 12:38-41)

b. Responding to the ‘sign’

8. Jonah 3 and Us
a. Responding to merciful message of judgement

b. Keep evangelising