

## Desperation, Part II

Written by

Kimberly Thompson

Editor: Al Lundy

Copyright 2013

We live our lives and ask as well as expect God to bless our plans, but how much of all this are we willing to give up for Jesus? Do we hold out until we reach the point where we become desperate, no hope in sight? Let's talk about this word "desperate" for a moment. Webster's dictionary describes "desperate" as "having lost hope, **a desperate spirit crying for relief.**" What would cause one to lose hope or cry for relief? Here is a relevant example from the book of Jonah and hopefully something that will draw attention.

Starting from the book of Jonah chapter one, verses one to 17, God gives Jonah an assignment (Jonah 1:1-2). This "dove" was charged with warning the people of Nineveh that the Lord's wrath would fall upon them if they did not repent. Unfortunately, for one reason or another Jonah rejected that word, rejected the assignment. Why? Could it have been principle, bitterness, or vengeance, perhaps? We will never know exactly what was running through his mind at the time; but what we can evaluate is that **his selfish pride** would not allow him to immediately surrender to God's will. He ran from God and in the process put the fishermen on the boat to Tarshish in danger (Jonah 1:12). How so? Jonah 1:4 states that,

*"the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship like to be broken." Is this the kind of storm in our lives that bring on desperation. The mariners cried to their god to no avail, they made an effort to physically bring the ship to land but their fleshly efforts failed. It was only after they had cried to the LORD (1:14) and threw Jonah out of the ship that "the sea ceased from raging" (15).*

Note that these fishermen who had previously called on their god now feared the LORD exceedingly and even offered a sacrifice to the LORD, and made vows (1:16). Can God handle what we might view as desperation. I think so.

After being swallowed up, Jonah was in the belly of the whale for three days and compared this time of solitude to being in prison. He utilized this time to reconnect with God in desperation (Jonah 2).

*5 The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. 6 I went down to the bottoms*

*of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O Lord my God. 7 When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple*

Ultimately, he was stuck between a rock and a hard place, with his only two choices: to be surrender or die. We all know how the rest of the story goes but what we fail to realize sometimes is that it's not just a story. I believe the Jonah story has implications for us even in 2013. Is God looking to grab our attention by allowing a whale to come our way? The whale could be our finances, our relationships, legal issues, health issues, mental turmoil, just to name a few. However, the question is, "How long brothers and sisters will we sit in the belly of the whale before we reach out in desperation? Will it take the floods compassing us about or weeds wrapped around our heads before we sincerely cry out to then LORD? What level of desperation will make you and I start stripping away all the factors keeping us from truly connecting with Jesus Christ who will reveal the things most important to us? Equally important, what will take for all of us to take the step toward totally surrendering to Him, heart, mind and body (Romans 12:1-2) will reveal his will for your life..

*"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

In the voice of the most interesting man on earth: "Stay desperate my friends"