

Wednesday Devotional

June 1, 2022

Scripture: Jonah 2: 1 – 3:1

The Gift of Another Chance By Elisa Morgan

Since the time of our first father and mother our God has offered another chance to those who have failed. Many who thought they had flunked out of life for good reentered the graduated with honors. History tells of those who learned from their failures and became successful, Jonah was one. After he learned the lessons of failure, God gave him another chance. Deep in the belly of the whale, Jonah searched for a grip among the slippery entrails. Perhaps he remembered David's words:

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast (Psalm 139: 7-10)"

The far side of the sea – that's where Jonah had headed to escape God's command. His destination had been his mistake. Surely, the God who pronounced judgment on the Ninevites for their evils toward him would just as easily snuff out the life of a disobedient servant. Nineveh...he felt the light on his life blown out, darkness crushing his chest.

After God commanded the fish to deposit Jonah on land, "the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time" (v.1). A second time to Jonah – and to Moses, and to Samson, and to David, and to Peter, and to John Mark. Using our sin, our failure, as a great teacher, the word of the Lord also comes to us a second time, offering another chance.

We have a God of the second chance. He not only restores us but recycles our failures, using them for his purposes. His view of success is our conformity to the image of Christ. Failure can be the best preparation for this kind of success, if we submit ourselves to its lessons while we wait for another chance.