PAUL PERKIN

Jonah

Paul Perkin both studied and taught physics, having specialised in theoretical physics at Oxford University where he discovered a living faith in Christ. After ordination he served in the dockyard town of Gillingham in North Kent, and then at Holy Trinity Brompton, where he was also chaplain to the Brompton Hospital.

In 1987, Paul and Christine led the planting of a new congregation at St Mark's Battersea Rise. During this period they have in turn planted twice: a group to restart the ministry of the Church of the Ascension Balham Hill, followed by a new injection into two neighbouring parishes, St Peter's and St Paul Battersea, on one of the toughest housing estates in London.

Paul and Christine have three grown-up children, and seven grandchildren under six. With their Parenting Teenagers course published with New Wine, they also speak on parenting the 20's, and grandparenting!

They have now moved to a 'House for Duty' post leading a very different parish church - in the village of Limpsfield Chart in the Surrey Hills. In his spare time, Paul enjoys motorbikes, hiking, skiing and gardening.

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Minister-in-Charge

JONAH 1
In the Boat – Jonah Fleeing (1)

‘You can run but you can’t hide!’

Verse 3: ‘Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish… And sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.’

JONAH 1
In the Boat – Jonah Fleeing (1)

THE POSITIVE LESSON:
'PURSUE GOD!'

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JONAH 1
In the Boat – Jonah Fleeing (1)

JONAH 1
In the Storm – Jonah Despairing (2)

‘When you reach the end of your resources you’re at the beginning of his!’

Verse 6: ‘How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god!’...

Verse 12: ‘Pick me up and throw me in the sea’.

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JONAH 1
In the Storm – Jonah Despairing (2)

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,
to ask for his forgiveness, hope and peace.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you, through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone.
We are heartily sorry, and we particularly repent
of not pursuing you with our whole hearts.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life,
full of hope to the glory of your name.
Amen.

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins,
open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to purse God's will
and give us the hope of his kingdom to come,
We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,
to ask for his forgiveness, hope and peace.
Amen.

THE POSITIVE LESSON:
'HOPE IN GOD!'

JONAH 2
In the Fish – Jonah Dying

‘The way down is the way back up.’

Verse 1: ‘From inside the fish, Jonah prayed to the Lord his God’.

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JONAH 2
In the Fish – Jonah Dying

THE POSITIVE LESSON:
'PRAY TO GOD!'

JONAH 2
In the Fish – Jonah Dying

We come to God our Father, as one from whom no secrets are hidden,
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you, through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone.
We are heartily sorry, and we particularly repent of not drawing close to you.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name.
Amen.

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins,
open our eyes to God's truth,
open our ears to listen to God's voice,
open our hearts to follow him
wherever he may lead, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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JONAH 3
In the City – Jonah Judging

‘He’s the God of the second chance.’

Verse 4: ‘Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned’…

Verse 10: ‘When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.’

JONAH 3
In the City – Jonah Judging

THE POSITIVE LESSON:
'OBEY GOD!'

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JONAH 3
In the City – Jonah Judging

Let us then renounce our willfulness and ask his mercy
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you, through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone.
We are heartily sorry, and we repent
of turning our backs on you in disobedience
and following the desire of our human hearts and going our own way.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may obediently serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins,
open our eyes to God's truth,
open our ears to listen to God's will
and give us Christ-like obedience
as we seek his kingdom here on earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

JONAH 4
In the Shade – Jonah Quarrelling

‘He’s everything we hoped for, but nothing we expected.’

Verse 9: ‘God said to Jonah, “Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?” “I do”, he said, “I am angry enough to die”.’

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JONAH 4
In the Shade – Jonah Quarrelling

THE POSITIVE LESSON:
'LOVE GOD!'

JONAH 4
In the Shade – Jonah Quarrelling

So let us confess our sins to God, who forgives us in Christ.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you, through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone.
We are heartily sorry, and we repent of losing our first love for you.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name.
Amen.

May the God of love bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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DISCERNING VISION
Moses and the Burning Bush

What is our vision of God?

'Misthinking distorts God's character to the Enemy's advantage and leaves a soul dangerously vulnerable to spiritual adultery'

The Sacred Slow, Alicia Britt Chloe.

DISCERNING VISION
Moses and the Burning Bush

EXODUS 3:1-12

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led
the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. [2] There
the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that
though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. [3] So Moses thought, 'I will go over and see this
strange sight – why the bush does not burn up.'

[4] When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush,
'Moses! Moses!' And Moses said, 'Here I am.' [5] 'Do not come any closer,' God said. 'Take off your
sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.' [6] Then he said, 'I am the God of
your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this, Moses hid his
face, because he was afraid to look at God.

[7] The Lord said, 'I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying
out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. [8] So I have come
down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land
into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey – the home of the
Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. [9] And now the cry of the
Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. [10] So
now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.'

[11] But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of
Egypt?' [12] And God said, 'I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have
sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this
mountain.'

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DISCERNING VISION
Moses and the Burning Bush

- Vision of God (3:4-6).

- Vision for God's people (3:7-9).

- Vision for Moses (3:10-12).

'Fear is looking at Jesus through your circumstances. Faith is looking at your circumstances through Jesus' eyes.'

Unknown

DISCERNING VISION
Moses and the Burning Bush

'If spiritual leadership is anything, it is the capacity to see the bush burning in the middle of our own life and having enough sense to turn aside, take off our shoes and pay attention.'

Strengthening the Soul of your Leadership, Ruth Haley Barton

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DISCERNING VISION
Moses and the Burning Bush

Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord,
who has prepared good things for those who love him.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you, through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone.
We are heartily sorry, and we repent
of having the wrong or limited vision of you
and not embracing your vision for our lives.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

May the God of all compassion and mercy,
who sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins.
May God open our eyes that we may have a greater vision of who he is.
May God open our ears to hear his call,
and strengthen our hearts to do God's will.
Make us holy to serve him in the world,
through his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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