

# THE ULTIMATE PITY PARTY



The Story of  
Jonah



**Jonah 4:3**  
**Therefore now, O Lord, take, I beseech thee,**  
**my life from me; for it is better for me to die**  
**than to live.**

# ***THE ULTIMATE PITY PARTY***

***A Study guide for Leaders in the Body of Christ***

***BY TIMOTHY II***

# THE ULTIMATE PITY PARTY

## INTRODUCTION:

In American slang, a “Pity Party” is the term used when someone is ‘feeling sorry’ for themselves. “Ultimate” means ‘unequaled’ or ‘unsurpassed’.

Together the title of this “Study Guide” means that this is the story of Jonah, a person with the most ‘unequaled’ or ‘unsurpassed’ problem of ‘feeling sorry’ for himself.

Recently, late at night, the Lord woke up Timothy II and reminded him about the story of the Prophet Jonah.

Although most of us have heard the story many times, most of the references we are familiar with, have been about a person running from the Call of God.

However, the Lord told Timothy II to focus in the story about how Jonah, who after running from the presence of God, and finally doing what God commanded him to do, began ‘feeling sorry’ for himself.

Even though Jonah was finally obedient to God’s Call, he still wanted to do his own thing, and in his own way. So he did the right thing with the wrong motives.

The Lord said to title this “Study Guide”, “The Ultimate Pity Party”.

The Lord brought this Study to Timothy II’s mind to tell those that are Called into God’s Service, which is all Christians, that we must do God’s Service with the right motives. We must also not follow our own plans on what to do with God’s Call, nor our own plans on how to do it!

Although this may sound harsh, there is a very good chance, that Jonah will not receive any rewards for his preaching in Nineveh, in spite of all the Salvations, because he did so with the wrong motives.

The proof of this, is that Jonah was angry with God because the people of Nineveh ‘did’ Repent.

The theologians point out that Jonah may have wanted the City to be destroyed to punish the enemy of Israel and to humble them. Jonah may have also been worried about Nineveh destroying Israel; but in all this he should have trusted the Lord.

This is a reminder, that when we are serving God, we do not know all of the ramifications of what we are doing, nor the timing. God’s ways are not our ways. (Isaiah 55:8, 9)

The “Ultimate Pity Party” we Christians can have, is after seeing God do great miracles, and then to begin to ‘feel sorry’ for ourselves. This turns that “Pity Party” into PRIDE!

The answer to Christians and Church Leaders to not having “Pity Parties, is to keep your emotions as much as possible out of God’s work. Remember, this is God’s work and not yours.

The ‘good news’ about knowing that it is God’s work and not ours, is that we do not have to feel responsible for what happens, just do what God tells us to do.

(Ezekiel 3:17-21)

This way we do not have to feel guilty about what happens, nor do we get the credit for the results either. We can take no Pride in what we are doing, for it is the Lord doing it.

It is also important in this Study to realize that we Christians are not to get caught up in the things of this world. Jonah was worried about Israel more than the things of God. We too can sometimes get caught up with the things of our own country and put that before God and the Body of Christ. In everything we do, we must put God first!

I pray that this “Study Guide” about Jonah will reveal to all Christians, especially Church Leaders, that if we Serve the Lord with humility, and follow His Call and His directions, we will not have any “Ultimate Pity Parties”.

It should also remind us that if we will be obedient to God’s Call, we will not have to go to Hell to wake us up. (Jonah 2:2)

As Timothy II, I can relate to this story, because I have gone to Hell (Outer Darkness) and returned. This experience definitely woke me up to the Call God had for my life. (Read the Timothy II Testimony)

Now, I cannot look back and have an “Ultimate Pity Party” saying poor me, look what I have to go through to Serve the Lord, but I can rejoice that God has chosen me to do His work. There is no time for “Pity Parties”, I must be about my Father’s business!

(Luke 2:49)

Hopefully Jonah also learned this lesson.

Amen!

**THE STORY OF JONAH:**

**CHAPTER 1:****Jonah 1:1-17**

Jonah receives his Call from God, to go to Nineveh, the Capital of Assyria, and preach against the city for their wickedness.

**Jonah 1:1-2**

1 **Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah** the son of Amittai, **saying,**  
 2 **Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness** is come up before me.

Jonah, however, tries to run from God's Call, and even from God's presence!

**Jonah 1:3**

3 **But Jonah rose up to flee** unto Tarshish **from the presence of the LORD**, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish **from the presence of the LORD.**

But the Lord had other plans for Jonah.

**Jonah 1:4**

4 **But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea**, so that the ship was like to be broken.

The Lord will use various people and methods to cause those that are Called by Him to return. He even allowed those that didn't know Him to try to call on their own gods to find out that that doesn't work.

**Jonah 1:5**

5 **Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god**, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

Because Jonah was asleep, the men knew that he must not have been worried by the storm, much like Jesus was sleeping when His disciples were afraid of a storm.

(Matthew 8:24, 25)

Then the men were ready to call upon the True God of Jonah.

**Jonah 1:6-7**

6 So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, **What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.**

Even the casting of lots was used by God.

**Jonah 1:7**

7 And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and **let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.**

After the lot fell on Jonah, the men inquired of Jonah, who are you?

**Jonah 1:8**

8 Then said they unto him, **Tell us**, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; **What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou?**

So Jonah told them the Truth, except at the time it is doubtful he truly “Feared the Lord”.

**Jonah 1:9**

9 And he said unto them, **I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven**, which hath made the sea and the dry land.

It is interesting that Jonah prior to this time had bragged that he had fled from his God.

**Jonah 1:10**

10 Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? **For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.**

The men then turned to Jonah for the answers to the problem of the ship.

**Jonah 1:11**

11 Then said they unto him, **What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us?** for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.

So Jonah told them that he knew he was the cause of the storm.

**Jonah 1:12**

12 And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: **for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.**

The men did not want to throw Jonah to his apparant death, so they tried to row to land.

**Jonah 1:13**

13 **Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land;** but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them.

Then the men cried out to the True God of Jonah for help. They asked God not to blame them for Jonah’s apparent death.

**Jonah 1:14**

14 **Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee.**

The results were that they had to do what God wanted them to do, even though it did not seem right. So they cast Jonah into the sea, and the sea stopped raging.

**Jonah 1:15**

15 **So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.**

This caused the men to “Fear the Lord” and they were saved.

**Jonah 1:16**

16 **Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows.**

Then the Lord prepared a great fish for Jonah’s trial in it’s belly for three days and three nights. This is a correlation to Jesus spending three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (Matthew 12:40)

**Jonah 1:17**

17 **Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.**

**CHAPTER 2:****Jonah 2:1-10**

Once in the fish’s belly, Jonah prayed!!

**Jonah 2:1**

1 **Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,**

Jonah called it the belly of Hell (sheol-hades). He called out to the Lord, just like Timothy II did from “Outer Darkness”, asking God for another chance.

It is interesting that Timothy II cried out to God that he hadn’t done anything for Him. Jonah cried out because of his affliction. What would you say?

**Jonah 2:2**

2 **And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.**

Notice that Jonah said it was God who cast him into the sea.

**Jonah 2:3**

3 **For thou hadst cast me into the deep**, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.

Even though Jonah's circumstances were not any better, he had the Faith to believe that he would see the Lord once again.

**Jonah 2:4**

4 Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; **yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.**

Even though he was in dangerous circumstances he knew he was going to be saved .

**Jonah 2:5-6**

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.**

He then realized that even though he was weak in the flesh unto death, he remembered God.

**Jonah 2:7**

7 **When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD:** and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.

Jonah refused to be a part of those that regard vain idols, because they will receive no mercy for themselves.

**Jonah 2:8**

8 **They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.**

He 'Repents' and promises that he will do what he has vowed, and return to the Salvation of the Lord.

**Jonah 2:9**

9 **But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.**

And the Lord returned unto Jonah!

**Jonah 2:10**

10 **And the LORD spake unto the fish**, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

**CHAPTER 3:**  
**Jonah 3:1-10**

Now that the Lord has Jonah's attention, He then Calls Jonah a second time **to preach** unto Nineveh the things that He will tell him.  
 Isn't it wonderful that God gives us second chances?

**Jonah 3:1-2**

1 **And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time**, saying,  
 2 **Arise, go unto Nineveh**, that great city, **and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.**

This time Jonah does what the Lord tells him to do and goes to Nineveh. Just as Timothy II does what the Lord tells him to do, knowing what happened the last time he refused to listen.

**Jonah 3:3**

3 **So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD.**  
 Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

Then Jonah went part way into the city and preached the words of the Lord and warned Nineveh.

**Jonah 3:4**

4 **And Jonah** began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he **cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.**

The results were that the people and the King of Nineveh believed God. They all from the greatest to the least prayed and fasted, including the animals!

**Jonah 3:5-7**

5 **So the people of Nineveh believed God**, and proclaimed a **fast**, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.  
 6 **For word came unto the king of Nineveh**, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.  
 7 **And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water:**

They cried out to God and 'Repented' from their evil ways and from their violence.  
 Are you listening America and other countries??

**Jonah 3:8**

8 **But let man and beast** be covered with sackcloth, and **cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands.**

They hoped that God would turn away His anger and save them.

**Jonah 3:9**

9 **Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?**

And God saw that they Repented and he saved them.

**Jonah 3:10**

10 **And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.**

Praise the Lord!

**CHAPTER 4:**

**Jonah 4:1-11**

Even after all that God did through Jonah, Jonah got mad.  
He was mad because he didn't want the enemies of Israel to be Saved.

**Jonah 4:1**

1 **But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.**

Then he prayed to the Lord and complained, and said: isn't this what I said while I was in my own country? He explained that this was the reason for his fleeing from the Lord, because he knew the Lord is gracious and he did not want Nineveh to be Saved.

**Jonah 4:2**

2 **And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.**

Then Jonah has "The Ultimate Pity Party". He invites God to take his life!  
Some may think he was Repenting here, but this isn't true because he did this in anger, not in humility.

**Jonah 4:3**

3 **Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.**

The Lord answers by asking Jonah: Do you deserve to be angry?

**Jonah 4:4**

4 **Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry?**

So then Jonah left and went out of the city to see what was going to happen to the city.

**Jonah 4:5**

5 **So Jonah went out of the city**, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth (shelter), and sat under it in the shadow, **till he might see what would become of the city.**

God then made a shelter out of a gourd for shade for Jonah and to comfort him. So Jonah was happy.

**Jonah 4:6**

6 **And the LORD God prepared a gourd**, and made it to come up over Jonah, **that it might be a shadow over his head**, to deliver him from his grief. **So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd.**

God then sets up Jonah by causing the gourd to wither, taking away his shade, and caused a hot wind to blow. The sun beat upon his head so that he became faint. Then “The Ultimate Pity Party” begins again! Jonah said it would be better if he would die.

**Jonah 4:7-8**

7 **But God** prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it **smote the gourd that it withered.**

8 And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that **God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.**

Then God gives a lesson for Jonah to learn. He asks him if he should be angry with the gourd? Jonah answers ‘yes’, angry even unto death! Another example of “The Ultimate Pity Party”.

**Jonah 4:9**

9 **And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd?** And he said, **I do well to be angry, even unto death.**

God tells Jonah that he had pity on the gourd that gave him shade, when it withered and died; yet he did not care for it nor cause it to grow.

**Jonah 4:10**

10 **Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow;** which came up in a night, and perished in a night:

God goes on to ask Jonah: Do you think I should not have pity on the City of Nineveh, where there are more than 120,000 persons that cannot tell the difference from their right hand and their left, and also much cattle?

**Jonah 4:11**

11 **And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?**

Since this was a great city, surely the people of Nineveh were not dumb. I believe that the Lord meant that the people of Nineveh were immature Spiritually, not knowing their right hand from their left. I do not believe that the Lord was talking about children, which some commentaries have suggested.

It is interesting that God included the animals. They too were involved in the fasting, and God cared for them too that they might be saved!

Notice, that there is no final response from Jonah, to the Question from the Lord!

**CONCLUSION:**

In Conclusion to “The Ultimate Pity Party”, it is hoped that all Christians, no matter how long you have been ‘Serving’ the Lord, remember that God loves ‘everyone’.

They are His creation, and no matter what He does, it is not up to us to question His Authority.

He will have mercy on whom He will have mercy. (Romans 9:15)

Who was Jonah to question this?

We may get mad at God occasionally, but we are not to begin ‘feeling sorry’ for ourselves, because things don’t go our way, or that things don’t turn out the way we expect them to, concerning the Ministry.

The “Ultimate Pity Party” becomes a form of Pride., and when we have pride, God cannot use us. Remember Pride goes before a fall. ( Proverbs 16:18)

When we begin ‘feeling sorry’ for ourselves, we are no good to anyone, because our focus is on ME!

The Dictionary says that Pride is:

Excessive self-regard, arrogance, egotism, superciliousness, haughtiness, disdain, vainglory, vanity, conceit. An absorbing sense of one’s own greatness.

The Bible says that Pride is a Sin:

**Prov 21:4**

4 **An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.**

And God hates Pride:

**Prov 6:16-17**

16 **These six things doth the LORD hate:** yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

17 **A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,**

**Prov 8:13**

13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: **pride, and arrogancy,** and the evil way, **and the froward mouth, do I hate.**

**Prov 16:5**

5 **Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD:**

Those Christians who have been living the life of “The Ultimate Pity Party”, need to Repent, turn from your ways, and begin to live a ‘Victorious Christian Life’ in JESUS!

**1 Cor 15:57-58**

57 **But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

58 **Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.**

**AMEN!**

**TIMOTHY II**