

misery upon them. In verse 14 we see them praying that God will forgive them for throwing him overboard. God made man in His image. Man has lost that image on account of sin, but a great deal of it remains. Even the most unregenerate and wicked man has some good in his heart. How foolish we are to look upon anyone as absolutely hopeless and impossible to reach. Only God knows who has been elected unto salvation. Those who seem the most impossible to us -- who seem as if they would never take an interest in the Gospel -- sometimes are the very ones who in their hearts are struggling against it. Let us never put limits to the purposes of God.

Jonah had living faith in God. Even though he had fled from God and started for Tarshish, he knew that if he was cast overboard and died he would go right into the presence of the Lord. Every Christian can know that whatever God sends is for the best. We must struggle and do our very best. We must try to serve God with all our souls; yet we can safely leave the issues in His hands, knowing that His will is always right.

Who would ever have dreamed what God would do in this case? God had a task for Jonah to perform, and the work was not yet done. The waves and the storm could not destroy Jonah until the work was completed for which God had raised him up. Therefore God had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah, we read, was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. God prepared a wonderful miracle, not just to show something grotesque and strange. God can work just as well through the natural and the ordinary as through the extremely unusual. He works through all sorts of circumstances