

# The Life Challenge

Title: The Singer, Not the Song  
Text: Jonah 2  
Speaker: Matt Ewert  
Date: May 31, 2020



## WARM-UP

Describe a situation in life where you encountered a situation or opportunity or offer that struck you as “too good to be true” and, sure enough, that ended up being the case.

## DISCUSSION

**Read Jonah 2. Pastor Matt pointed out that Jonah’s prayer, which on the surface seems beautiful and orthodox, actually ends up being “too good to be true”; it exposes Jonah as having not been transformed.**

- What do you note in Jonah’s prayer that seems to express truth?
- What do you note in Jonah’s prayer that shows he hasn’t changed?
- Given what’s transpired in the story, and God’s miraculous rescue of him, are you surprised that Jonah hasn’t been changed? Why or why not?

**In Jonah 2:8-9, Jonah seems to be pointing out how much more righteous he is than people like the pagan sailors he was on the boat with, and yet he turns out to be dead wrong.**

- Why do you think people seem to enjoy pointing out the (perceived) flaws of others?
- How can that practice blind us to our own flaws or deficiencies?
- Since self deception is a “disease” we all struggle with, what steps can we take to see our own lives with true clarity?

**Read Matthew 7:1-5**

***Jesus warns sternly against condemning others ... Jesus is referring, not to official lawcourts, but to the judgments and condemnations that occur within ordinary lives, as people set themselves up as moral guardians and critics of one another.***

**—NT Wright**

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## DISCUSSION

### Regarding Matthew 7:1-5:

- What do you understand Jesus' instruction for us to be in this passage?
- When it comes to formulating opinions about others, what lens must we consider those judgements through?
- When is judgement of others NOT appropriate?
- Is it ever appropriate to point out others shortcomings?
- If so, how can we know the time is right?
- How can we know WE'RE in the right position to bring some sort of judgement?
- What kind of judgement is never appropriate?
- What does the repeated use of the word "brother" in this text hint about the kind of posture and attitude we're supposed to have when engaging one another in areas of fault or weakness?

***Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.***

***1 Peter 4:8***