

The Prayer - Part 1: Shallow In The Depths

Jonah 1:17-2:9

November 20-21, 2021

- **Last Message: The Struggle of Salvation (Jonah 1:11-16)**
- **This Message: The Prayer Part 1: Brief Plausibility Study & Looking Back**
- **Next Message: The Prayer Part 2: Looking Forward**

A Brief Plausibility Study - Could This Happen & Did This Happen? (Jonah 2:17)

- **דָּג** (Dag) - fish, sea creature
1. Are There “Great Fish” Large Enough To Swallow A Man Whole?
 2. What About The Digestive Juices?
 3. Could Someone Survive Three Days & Three Nights In A Whales Belly?
 4. Are There Other Stories Like This?
 5. If You Don't Think God Can Raise A Person From The Dead, You Will Struggle To Believe Jonah 1:17-2:10
 6. God Appoints & Uses Creatures To Serve His Purposes

Looking Back: A Key To Prayer

1. Look Back At Where We (Jonah) Came From (1:1-2:1)
 - What Prayers Do We Expect? (Repentance & Forgiveness)
 - Our Past Should Inform Our Prayers
 - Our Present Should Form Our Prayers
2. Look Back At Jonah's Final Sights Before Being Swallowed
 - Sailors & Jonah's Last Sight Of One Another: Sacrifice (1:16)
 - Yet No Prayer for the Sailors
 - Comparison of the Prayers of the Sailors & Jonah (1:14 & 2:2-9)
3. Look Back To the Source Of This Psalm: Where Is Jonah Getting His Prayer?
 - This Prayer Comes From The Seaweed & The Psalms
 - This Prayer Comes From Jonah's Head & Heart
 - Structure: A Psalm of Thanksgiving Vs. A Confession Or Lament

Conclusion: Not every prayer is acceptable to God. It was easy for this great fish to swallow Jonah, but this prayer is far more difficult to swallow. Consider: **Luke 18:9-14**

Community Group Discussion Questions:

1. Describe a time when you were in a very difficult or impossible situation. How did you pray? How do you wish you would have prayed?
2. Why is it important to take God at His Word? How important is it to take God's Word literally? Is it important to believe that this section of Jonah actually happened? Is it plausible?
3. Given the situation that Jonah had gotten into, what do you expect Jonah to pray?
4. Compare and contrast the sailors prayer and Jonah's prayer (1:14 & 2:2-9). How do they compare? How do they contrast?
5. Consider how well Jonah knew God's Word. How can we know so much about God's Word but still not pray the way we should? Consider Luke 18:9-14.