

WSU Christian Challenge Study Guide

Jonah 1:17-2:11

2/18/2021

Read Jonah 1:17-2:11.

*The Divine Miracle (1:17)*

- Is it difficult for you to believe that Jonah was swallowed by a fish and lived in its belly for three days and three nights? Why or why not?
- How do you reconcile science, the study of the general truths, patterns, or laws that govern the universe, and miracles, anomalies that break those general truths, patterns, or laws? Is it possible to responsibly believe in both science and miracles?
- What does the author communicate to us about this event by stating it so matter-of-factly and then moving on in the narrative?

*The Frail Repentance (2:1-9)*

To repent literally means “to turn, to change course, or to go a different direction.”

- What actions do you see Jonah take in chapter two that signal his repentance?
- What about Jonah’s prayer in chapter two signals that this might be a frail repentance?
- Is repentance primarily an internal or external action? Or is it both?
- Can you think of a time when you performed the external actions of repentance (confess, stop doing the wrong thing, start doing the right thing, etc.), but you did it half-heartedly and quickly returned to a sinful habit or attitude? Explain.
- Do you need to “turn, change course, or go a different direction” in any aspect of your life right now? What might it look like to move that direction in both your heart and your life? Which of the actions that Jonah took might be appropriate for you now?

*The Merciful Deliverance (2:10)*

- How does our knowledge that Jonah’s repentance was frail, yet God showed Him mercy anyway, encourage us to go before God in our weakness and failure?

Read Matthew 12:38-41.

- In what ways was Jesus like Jonah?

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- How does the fact that God used the belly of a fish and a cold, dark tomb to bring deliverance and salvation change the way you think about the way God works and the circumstances in which we might find His mercy?
- How might the reality of the resurrection and God's salvation shape the way you think about what you are encountering this week?