

Read: Jonah 1:17-2:10

Day 15

“When Jonah Got A Reason To Pray”

“I said, ‘I have been banished from Your sight; yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.’ The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But You, LORD my God, brought my life from the pit.”

-Jonah 2:4-6

Insight Into The Word: Jonah’s Discouragement

The prophet is in despair and great discouragement. He is in trouble! He believes that The LORD has driven him from His presence! Jonah is feeling this way because he is experiencing the consequences of his behavior. And because he has rebelled against God’s calling, he has been thrown in the depths of the ocean and is now experiencing an absence from the presence of The LORD.

In his prayer, Jonah says that he will once more look toward God’s holy temple. In other words, Jonah has come to himself and feels the sting of his disobedience. He now looks again towards God.

For the believer who acts like Jonah, it is good to have their attention turned back to God in times of trouble and despair. It is good to remember Who God is and where He is when guilt, despair, and discouragement have engulfed them. It is good for the “Jonah-type believer” to be shocked into remembering the holiness of God. And every now and then, every believer should revisit Who God is.

Jonah, in his prayer, is aware that God sees him and knows exactly where he is. God has brought his life from the pit and saved him from death. God still hears His prophet from the belly of the fish. And if God can hear Jonah’s prayer in a time and situation like this, God can certainly hear yours too!

Thoughts to Ponder:

When have you faced discouragement like Jonah?

Every now and then, it is good for every believer to revisit Who God is for them. Ponder and reflect on this: Who is He for you?