

Jonah, Jesus and Jihad: Part 2

Embracing Grace: Jonah 2, Matthew 12:38-42

Sharia: law based on the Quran that is applied by judges, enforced in a Caliphate or in smaller communities.

Torah: There's some pretty crazy stuff in there too!

For Christians, everything turns on Jesus.

Jesus in Islam:

God does not want to relate to us through law. He wants us to let love lead in our relationship to him and each other.

Summary of Jonah 2: Salvation is God's gift!

This means:

God saves people because He is gracious, not because they follow the rules.

Something greater than Jonah, Solomon and the Law (Matthew 12:38-42):

Sign of Jonah:

Sign of a mature Christian:

Jesus replaces law with love.

Application:

Life Group Questions

This week, before you go to your Life Group:

Review Sunday's teaching. Write down all of your observations, questions and comments. Read and study the following passages in preparation of your group time: Jonah 2, Matthew 22:34-40.

Life Group Discussion Questions:

One of the things that disturbs many people about ISIS is their interpretation and implementation of Islamic law. Have you heard of or seen any of these laws in the news? What are they, and how do they make you feel? Why do you think this kind of law is so important to a group like ISIS?

Read Jonah 2 together. What is the tone of verses 1-6? Discuss as many of the author's images as you can. What emotions do you think are being expressed? Can you think of a time that you felt this way? How can you relate? Contrast that section with verses 7-9. What is the conclusion that Jonah comes to? What is Jonah's role in saving himself according to the poem? What is God's role? Do you think Jonah deserved to be saved? Why or why not? If you could write the rest of the story of Jonah, how would you have him respond after this event has happened to him? Jonah disobeyed God, and God saved him anyway. What does this tell us about God's character?

Jesus doesn't want us to relate to him by following the rules or law. If we turn to Jesus and choose to follow him, what does Matthew 22:34-40 say about 'the law'? How does this change the way we should relate to God? Others? Do you ever feel like your relationship with God is more about law than love?

What is one application that you can make based on what God has been teaching you through this study?