

Jonah and the Worm

I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide#2 Baby Dedication (3rd):
- B. Slide#3 Good Fri Communion - Crosswalk - Easter Service:

II. Slide#4 **Intro:**

- A. If God just wanted to save **Nineveh** the book would have ended in chapter 3, but there was still more to do. God wanted to save **Jonah**...from himself.
 - 1. This is the only book which God focuses on **the prophet rather than** on the prophets message.
 - 2. **Jonah's actions are both pathetic & humorous** at the same time.
- B. Slide#5 Story: Back in 2002 our family went to Magic Mountain & went on **Goliath**. It was the tallest ride & right before the very top...we *broke down* & had to get out & walk back down.
 - 1. Jonah was right at this spot in his ministry when he could have **enjoyed the ride of his life**. *i.e.* Church plants, discipleship, raising up leadership,...of a whole nation.
 - a) Not to mention the largest, & most influential kingdom of the world.
 - 2. Slide#6 Instead Jonah choose **the "roller coaster of emotions"** instead.
 - a) We'll see him 1st angry & wants to die. **Then** happy because of some shade. **Then** spittin' angry & wants to die again, *because his little Chia shade plant died???*
- C. I think some **salt water** got in Jonah's **open wound**.
 - 1. But notice how **tenderly** God deals with His prophet w/a **toxic heart**.
- D. Slide#7 Title: **Jonah and the Worm**
- E. **Outline:** Reviled by Revival (1-4). Pining over a Plant (5-8). No Pity for a City (9-11).

III. Slide#8 **REVILED BY REVIVAL (1-4)**

- A. Slide#9 **DISPLEASED OR PLEASED**
- B. (1) **Jonah's problem?** – He was not completely yielded to God.
 - 1. His **mind** knew God's truth. His **will** obeyed Gods orders. **But** his **heart** did not follow his **mind & will**.
 - 2. Eph.6:5,6 **Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, w/fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not w/eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart**
- C. **What a contrast** from Lk.15:10 Likewise, I say to you, there is **joy** in the presence of the angels of God over **one sinner who repents**. *Ouch, that stings.*

- D. (2) This sounds very similar to Ex.34:6,7 **The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.**
- E. **Slide#10 ANGER OR SLOW TO ANGER**
- F. The audacity, to treat God's **goodness** as **badness**.
1. Interesting, **Jonah** is **angry** in vs.1, **but God** is **slow to anger** in vs.2. **Who do you emulate?**
 2. Mercy imitates God **&** irritates Satan.
- G. **Slide#11 HATE OR LOVE**
- H. If you want to be *like God* then be: *Gracious, merciful, slow to anger, have loving kindness, & hold back from showing harm* when you have the right to show harm.
1. It's as if Jonah is listing 5 things he **hates** about God???
 2. **In your life** how have you seen/witnessed God demonstrate these qualities?
- I. (3) Was this because he's thinking, "if wrath doesn't fall, then I'm a false prophet?"
1. Was Jonah more concerned with *his reputation* *then with God's*?
 2. **Or** did Jonah think, *Will I be seen as a traitor to my countrymen for helping out the enemy?*
- J. **Slide#12 NO OR YES**
- K. (4) 1st time **no answer**. Next time(9) he answers an emphatic **YES!**
1. Either place he **didn't** have a reason to be **angry**. Though he might have thought he did
 2. **Slide#13** Ever put a **mirror** in front of a *betta fish*, the Siamese fighting fish?
 - a) Jonah, just like this fish, there's absolutely no reason for him to be **angry & postured for battle**...except for *a wrong perception* in his mind.
 - b) **His anger only proves 2 things**: He doesn't **understand God's grace** **&** He still doesn't **trust God's ways**.

IV. **Slide#14 PINING OVER A PLANT (5-8)**

- A. (5) **He went out of the city**. [Now there's some real good **follow up** for his new converts]
1. **He already knew** God wasn't going to destroy Nineveh, **therefore** his actions are simply **stubborn & childish**.
 - a) So, he heads outside the city **to pout & to wait** for something he **wishes would happen** **but** which he **knows will not happen**.
 2. Jonah acts like **the elder brother** in the prodigal story Lk.15:25-28.
 - a) (28) **But he was angry & would not go in.**

3. Here is a guarantee **recipe** for **depression**: Do what Jonah did & remove yourself from people.
4. Here are 10 steps to **overcoming depression**: **Step 1**: Do something good for someone else. **Step 2**: Repeat step 1, 9x's.

B. **Slide#15 JUDGE OR PARDON**

C. (5b) **Till he might see what would become of the city.**

1. I think we've all doubted someone's salvation. **Maybe that's what was going on in Jonah's mind?**
2. So there he sits **feeling sorry for himself & judging** the city **God had just pardoned.**

D. If I were God, I would have blasted Jonah the 500 miles back into the Mediterranean, & this time had him picked up not by a big fish, by a very small shark w/big teeth.

E. But what's God's response now in the next verse? Grace (6).

1. *Look at Jonah pouting because I saved close to 1/2 million people...I think I'll bless him by bringing him **shade** from the hot Middle Eastern sun.*

F. (6) **That's Gods Grace** – When we **least** deserve it, is often when He brings it on **thick.**

1. **Slide#16 Grace** is when you **get** what you **don't** deserve.
2. **Mercy** is when you **don't** get what you **do** deserve.
3. **Justice** is when you **get exactly** what you **do** deserve.

a) There is only 1 thing more shocking in this book more than **Jonah's sin**...it's **God's grace.**

G. **Slide#17 ANGRY OR HAPPY**

H. Here we have for the 1st & only time in the book, that Jonah is **happy**...and its over *his own personal comfort* being met.

1. **Very grateful** = (lit.) rejoiced w/great joy.

I. **Slide#18 PLANT OR WORM**

J. (7) God brought the **plant** & the **worm**, he brings the **blessings** & the **bummers**. **God prepares them both.**

1. And Job in Job 1:21 **The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD.**
2. **Verses 6,7 tell our life story** – 1 day a blessing & comfort, the next He **deals** with us & **develops** us.
 - a) God is more concerned for our **character** rather than our **comforts.**
3. When we are angry w/God, everything in life gets out of perspective, & we say & do selfish things.

- a) **Things** become more important than **people**, & **comfort** more important than **ministry**.
4. Slide#19 God is always about **people** first. Augustine said, *The city of God is a place where the inhabitants love people & walk on gold. The city of man is a place where the inhabitants love gold & walk on people.*
- K. The Lord used a **plant** & a **worm** as object lessons in Jonah's life. What object lessons has God used in your life lately? [Maybe through a toddler? Your pet? An automobile? An illness?]
- L. Now the Lord *gently exposes* how mixed up Jonah's **values** are...

V. Slide#20 **NO PITY FOR A CITY (9-11)**

A. Slide#21 **PLANTS OR PEOPLE**

B. God's lesson on Priorities:

1. The **plant** was temporal; **people** are eternal.
2. The **plant** was of little value; **people** are highly valued.
3. Jonah played no part in making the **plant** grow; God had every part in creating the **Ninevites**.
4. Jonah sought **his own comfort**; God sought **Jonah's character**.
5. Jonah cared for **the destiny of 1 plant**; God cared for **the spiritual destiny of 1000's of people**.

C. (9) Jonah's Chia Pet died :(What little things irritate or bug you?

1. It bugs me when _____ (fill in the blank). Flat tire. Wrecked car. Washer breaks. Break a nail. Spill on your shirt. Lights left on. Suppers cold. Toothpaste squeezed improperly again. T/P in wrong direction(over top).
 - a) These *petty irritants* always invite us to reexamine what we really care about.
 - (1) Jonah would have been **happy** about Nineveh's destruction, **but** he wanted to **die** because of a silly vine's destruction.

2. Slide#22 What about the 26,000 children who die daily from preventable disease...every day?

- a) Slide#23 Jesus asks, **does that bother you?**
- b) We have the awareness, the access, & the ability to stop it. **Why haven't we done something about it? Because its not our kids? They're somebody else's. They're Assyrian kids. [Iraqi's, Afghani's, Palestinian children, Somali, children]**
- c) Let my heart be broken for the things that break Gods heart.
- d) What about the many people who die *spiritually* daily? Jesus asks, **does that bother you?**

D. Does the Lord ask **you** this... Is it right for **you** to be angry? Answer, **yes**, at the time we sure do.

1. God asks me this every time I've had *intense fellowship* with Kelly. My 1st answer like Jonah's is usually, **YES, this time, I have every right to be angry.**

2. **Then** He graciously shows me how I'm 100% wrong...**AGAIN!**
- E. Your anger is debilitating: God asks him...(and maybe you?)
1. Is it **good for you** to be angry with Me?
 2. Are you **happier** now that you're angry w/Me & refusing to submit to Me?
 3. Is it **satisfying**? Do you wake up **rejoicing** in the Lord always, or do you wake up on the **wrong side of the bed** every single day. Is it **adding color** to your life?
 - a) Jonah's biting The Hand that feeds him.
- F. **Slide#24 Today being Palm Sunday**, reminds us that **Jesus** wept for the people as he walked over the Palm branches. **Jonah here**, walked over the people, while he wept for a plant.
- G. **The book ends abruptly** talking about cattle & without telling us Jonah's response.
1. **Regarding the livestock** - Prob a glimpse of **the size** of God's redemption.
 - a) Rom.8:21,22 **the creation** looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in **glorious freedom from death and decay**. For we know that **all creation** has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.
 - b) Gods in the process of **gaining it all back**, **not** giving it all up!
 - c) God's up to something **huge**. Something **cosmic**.
 2. **As for Jonah** - let's remember...he wrote this book. He's been **brutally honest** and given us **the directors uncut version**, about his backslidden escapade. **Maybe by giving us the story is letting us know...he gets God's Grace now.**
- H. **Slide#25 Jonah chapter 4 summed up:**
1. From Evangelism-busy. To a 1st Class Tizzy.
 City Saved. I'd rather be in the grave.
 I knew it, I knew it. You'd go & do it.
 Instead of wrath on their Head. It's Salvation instead.
 Right for me to be mad? Do You wanna see mad?
 I'll Pout over here. If even for a Year.
 My Chia-Pet for a friend. Boy that was a Quick End.
 A Worm not fed. There goes shade for my Head.
 I Guess I'd rather grieve for my gourd. Then have the heart of the Lord.
 All Because I showed no Pity. For an Assyrian City?
 I'd Rather be dead. Then Assyrian led.
 Well, I want the last point to be mine. Can I Sum it up in a Line?
 There's 2 Ways in Choosing the Will of God you see: **#1 is by Land & #2 is by Sea.**