

THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JONAH

CHAPTER 4:6-11

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“FINDING JONAH”

SERMON SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED KEYWORD:

DISCIPLESHIP, SOVEREIGNTY, PRODIGAL

INTRODUCTION

to the text

Jonah 4:6-11

Jonah 4:6-11

And the LORD God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant. ⁷ But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered. ⁸ And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." ⁹ Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!" ¹⁰ But the LORD said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ "And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left-- and much livestock?"

We remember that Jonah is in the Grip of
Bitterness and Resentment toward God

Jonah 4:1-5

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. ² So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. ³ "Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!" ⁴ Then the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city.

What we Learn from Verses 6 thru 8

Is that God will go to great lengths and spare no resource of His
To bring about what's best for our lives...

How He Commands

Isaiah 40:12

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?

Jonah 1:4

But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea,
and there was a mighty tempest on the sea,

Jonah 1:17

Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah...

And The Example of Jesus' Authority

Mark 4:38-41

But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" ⁴¹ And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

FINDING JONAH

1.) God uses what He must

vv. 6-8

God uses what He must...

1a.) God uses Goodness toward us (Jonah)

Verse 6

*And the LORD God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery.
So Jonah was very grateful for the plant.*

Jonah was Miserable from the Intense Heat and Sun

So God in His Goodness
Miraculously Provides an Awning for Jonah

AND JONAH TAKES COMFORT IN GOD'S UMBRELLA

Why is this important?

Because Jonah is enjoying something that he has no right to or privilege over.

Prepared HEB 4487 manah (maw-naw');

to weigh out by implication, to allot or enumerate. To enroll or to enlist what is needed for the job.

Notice

Jonah's Strange Pleasure

"Jonah was very grateful for the plant."

Not for saved Souls, Not for Revival,

Not for the Glory of God

He's Happy About His Own Place, Comfort, Space

I John 3:17

But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

He was **Exceedingly Angry**
about the Salvation of the Ninevites

Vs.

But He was **Very Grateful**
about a Little Plant

What Made Jonah Happy?

What Makes Us Happy?

Resentment is seen in the Self Centeredness of Jonah

in

FINDING JONAH

God is allowing him to come to the end of his little world view

God uses what He must...

1b.) God uses Crisis around us (Jonah)

Verse 7-8a

*But as morning dawned the next day **God prepared a worm**, and it so damaged the plant that it withered. ⁸ And it happened, when the sun arose, that **God prepared a vehement east wind**; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint*

A Prepared Worm

God had prepared a worm

And that little worm was a divine tool of God's will

God had prepared a wind

And that hot wind was a divine tool of God's will

He Had an Internal Crisis

It was His Priorities

He was a Prophet of God

With no spiritual investment

Like a Man who says he's a Christian
Who never invests in the things of God

Turn to **Matthew 25:14-30**

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. ¹⁵ And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. ¹⁶ Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. ¹⁷ And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. ¹⁸ But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' ²¹ His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' ²² He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to

me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' 23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' 26 "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

God uses what He must...

1c.) God uses Disaster upon us (Jonah)

Verse 8b

*Then he wished death for himself, and said,
"It is better for me to die than to live."*

This is Jonah's Third Death Wish

- **First** was "Throw me overboard"
- **Second**, Verse 3 "Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!"
- **Third**, Is Right Here...

Jonah Now is at the End of His Road

Even in the Midst of the Disaster in Life God is Working Things Out for You

Why Would Jonah Be Angry About
The loss of the plant?

1 - Because the Plant Protected Jonah against
The Scorching Sun

2 - Because the Plant Protected Jonah against
Blistering Heat

3 - Because the Plant Protected Jonah against
Extreme Exposure

4 - Because the Plant Protected Jonah against
Possible Death

FINDING JONAH

2.) God says what He must

vv. 9-11

Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!" 10 But the LORD said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. 11 "And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left-- and much livestock?"

And what The Lord has to say comes to Jonah
by way of A Question. Then Comment,

Then A Question Again...

God says what He must

2a.) God will challenge Jonah's Position (and ours)

Verse 9

Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!"

A Question That Challenges Jonah's Position
"Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"

Jonah - Is Your Position Correct?

When God Asks These Kind of Questions
The Answer is in the Question Itself

"It isn't right for you to be angry about the plant!"

God says what He must

2b.) God will challenge Jonah's Argument (and ours)

Verse 10

But the LORD said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night"

Jonah

The Things that you care about
are things that I can make come and go...

They are Temporary Things
Things that are going to burn

BUT A HUMAN BEING AND ETERNITY
IT'S NOT A TEMPORARY THING – *but forever!*

You have had pity... (on the wrong thing)

Spiritual Matters in Life

God says what He must

2c.) God will challenge *Jonah's Conclusion (and ours)*

Verse 11

"And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left-- and much livestock?"

A Question That Challenges Jonah's Conclusion

***"Should I not pity Nineveh, the innocent ones,
and it's animals too?"***

Some Have Seen a Problem
with the Ending of Jonah's Letter.

- Should I Not Pity Nineveh?
- Should I Not Pity Its Little Ones?
- Should I Not Pity Their Parents?

- Should I Not Pity the Animals?
- Should I Not Pity The King?
- Should I Not Pity the People?

THIS QUESTION NEVER ENDS
“Should I Not Pity...?”

BUT THE ANSWER IS ALWAYS THE SAME;
YES !

Yes! - I Will Pity Nineveh

Yes! - I Will Pity Its Little Ones

Yes! - I Will Pity Their Parents

Yes! - I Will Pity the Animals

Yes! - I Will Pity The King

Yes! - I Will Pity the People

Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Mark 6:34-37a

And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things. ³⁵ When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, "This is a deserted place, and already the hour is late. ³⁶ Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat." ³⁷ But He answered and said to them, "You give them something to eat."

Shall Not God Pity You and Me?

End of study