



SERMON NOTES

JONAH

Week 4 (June 28): "Jonah's Anger"
Jonah 4:1-11

I. Jonah's Journey

- a. After God calls Jonah, he heads _____ to Joppa, _____ into the hold of the ship, and _____ into the belly of the fish.
- b. Feeling as low as he could go in the belly of the fish, Jonah prays, "But you, O Lord brought my life up from the _____."
- c. The "great fish" in Jonah changes gender from _____ to _____ suggesting birth imagery when Jonah is spewed (re-born) onto the land.

II. Jonah's Anger

- a. As soon as the people of Nineveh heard Jonah's message, they _____ God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.
- b. Jonah is angry because the Ninevites repented, and because he knew God was _____ and _____.
- c. We know that "God so loves _____ that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16
- d. God provides a bush or castor bean plant to provide _____ for Jonah and this makes him very happy, but then God provides a _____ to eat the plant, so it withers.

III. God's Compassion

- a. God asks Jonah, Is it right for you to be _____ about a plant?
- b. God asks Jonah why God should not have compassion for a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their _____, _____, _____, _____, and also many animals?
- c. One day God's people will include "a great _____ that no one can count, from every nation, tribe, people and language" (Revelation 7:9)
- d. _____.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message

ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Jonah becomes angry with God because God is compassionate and merciful to the Ninevites. This passage challenges us to consider who it is that we categorize as “other” and beyond God’s reach. This week, we consider how God’s love and compassion for us should guide our way in the world.

Monday: Jonah 4:1-3

What was the main reason for Jonah’s anger? With whom was he angry?

What does Jonah believe about God? Do you think Jonah really wanted to die? Why or why not? How would you describe Jonah’s behavior? Have you ever looked back at a time when you were angry, and you could not make sense of your emotions? How do you feel about that situation now? Do you need to ask God for forgiveness for any unresolved anger?

Tuesday: Jonah 4:6-8

What three things did God provide or “appoint” for Jonah? Why do you think Jonah did not believe the people of Nineveh deserved God’s grace? Can you relate to Jonah’s feelings? Why or why not? How can festering anger affect your outlook on life? How would you advise someone who holds on to festering anger toward God?

Wednesday: Jonah 4:9-11

What lesson was God trying to teach Jonah, through the vine? What do you think God meant when He said the Ninevites couldn’t tell their left hand from their right? Can you think of a person or people in your life you could describe as not knowing “their left hand from their right.” Do you struggle to have compassion for these people? Why or why not? If you could write a different ending to Jonah’s story, what would it be?

Thursday: 1 Kings 19:1-7

How does Jonah’s response to God in Jonah 4, compare with Elijah’s after he confronted the prophets of Baal? How was Elijah strengthened to fulfill God’s mission? What can we learn from their experiences? How could you avoid “burn-out” in order to continue in God’s mission for your life?

Friday: Matthew 5:43-48

What is your gut reaction when you read these words of Jesus? What is going on in your heart as you read this passage? Have you tried praying for someone who has hurt you? Can you long for their peace and healing? If you can’t yet pray for the person’s good, can you pray for a spirit of forgiveness?

Saturday: Ephesians 4:26-27, 31-32

Harboring bitterness can be dangerous, especially if you are unable to pray. A hidden hatred can not only diminish one’s spiritual life, it can also affect our mental, social and physical well-being. Why does the Apostle Paul say we should be tender-hearted and compassionate to others?

MOVING FORWARD

As God’s mercy and compassion for you make you more tender-hearted, where is God calling you to act? Is God calling you to forgive someone in your life? How can you bring more justice for those who have been categorized as “other,” for so long? Pray and ask God to guide your next steps.

Answers to the sermon notes: 1a) down, down, down, b) pit, c) male to female. 2a) believed, b) gracious and merciful, c) the world, d) shade, worm, 3a) angry, b) their right hand from their left, c) multitude