

March 19th 2006: O.T. review : Jonah: Disappointed with God: Jonah 4

The story of Jonah being swallowed.....is one of the classic stories
Fairly well known even by non-church.....
The Bible presents it as a true story.... and mentions this same Jonah in 2Kings 14:25 as
a prophet in Israel...time of Jeroboam 2 who prophesised an increase in....
Jesus also refers to this story as.....really took place

THE STORY IS SIMPLE TO RECOUNT

Jonah was told by God to.....

& that brings us **TO THE POINT IN THE STORY** that chpt 4 refers to:-

And it is in chapter 4.....that we find the answer to the question that ...book raises
WHY did this prophet.....

Head for Tarshish when God sent him to Ninevah....specific job ??

4:1--2 says.....

Peterson in The Message.....

Jonah was furious. He lost his temper. He yelled at God, “God I knew it—when I was back home, I knew this was going to happen! That’s why I ran off to Tarshish! I knew you were sheer grace and mercy; not easily angered, rich in love, and ready at the drop of a hat to turn your plans of punishment into a programme of forgiveness!

Jonah....by running away(1:3).....was putting in his resignation as a Prophet

By boarding a ship...take him in the opp direction.....he was declaring
his unwillingness to do a job.....that he believed could result...act huge injustice

(Crossing the floor of Parliament)

God had instructed.....to go and preach God's judgment against Ninevah....(40).
because its wickedness.....**and God wanted them to know.....**gone too far

now the idea of the Assyrians getting judged.....was sweet news to Jonah's ears////

- They were the Nation....prophets had declared.....would be used by God to...
- They were the most cruel, twisted and hated Nation going(*Skin people alive/tongues*)
- Jonah was from a border village.....Exp first hand their cruelty

So Jonah was in support of them getting destroyed.....They truly deserved it
But he didn't agree with giving them a warning
Because he knew what God was like.....

The irony.....Because Jonah disobeyed God.....Became a more effective herald
➔ After throwing him overboard.....Sailors returned
.....bleached completely white.....

IT'S no wonder that.....took him and his message really seriously
They repented from the King down.....(Great miracle)....and 3:10 says.....

AND JONAH WAS so cross and angry
That he had to tell God exactly what he was feeling:::& that's what he does in chapter 4
...and then it seems.....
...he sits and waits to see.....what God will now do to this great city

Someone wrote that in chapter one you have Jonah saying

➔ I WON'T GO
In 2 ➔ I WILL GO....
In 3 ➔ I'M HERE.....
In 4 ➔ I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME

Perhaps there have been times when we have felt like that in our ministry...too???

When we have finally given in to God's call.....yet begrudgingly
And we have performed the task....but unwillingly.....
At the end....no joy.....just a sense of being used up...
And we have winged and complained.....like a spoilt child

By the end of chapter 3.....God has finished with the Ninevites...time being
And now He turns to His servant

For God has one major thing....to teach Jonah
The value He places on human beings.....**Even** the most horrible specimens of humanity

So He provides for Jonah a quick growing plant.....Overnight it grew up....shade
And Jonah is extremely happy about the plant

But then God provides a worm...at dawn the next day.....destroys the plant...withers
And the Lord provided a scorching East wind.....

And the burning sun blazed on his head.....and the hot wind sucked the air
And without the shade....he is in such torment.....just wants to die

And God....who had first provided a large **fish**...then a **plant**...**worm**...**hot east wind**
Now speaks to Jonah and saysDo you have a right to be angry about the plant
I DO.....says Jonah.....

But you did nothing for this plant.....You were just so happy to enjoy it
And now you are angry.....**because** a worm has destroyed it from its roots

And I too was angry.....with the wickedness that was destroying this mass of people
And so I sent you to tell them about my judgment.....and they turned....mercy
And I was so glad to give it.....because I value the souls of people

God showed both His wrath and anger at sin.....and the value of all people
When He sent His Son to die
And though He suffered from the worst in people....Unlike Jonah He willingly
Because Jesus.....being Godshowed His love for us in this.....

And now God calls us....to value people as He does.....And to reach out to the best &

(page 164.....Explore the Book...)

He wants us to do so in whatever way we can.....but willingly....in love
What petty boundaries...lord need to break.....that we might value.....

....and truly reach beyond ourselves.....towards them in love

