
waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ Then the LORD God provided a vine and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the vine.

Jonah 4:7 But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the vine so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

Jon. 4:9 God said to Jonah, "Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?" "I do," he said. "I am angry enough to die."

The True Jonah

Jonah 4:10 But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?"

“Centuries later, someone came who said to his astonished listeners that he was the ultimate Jonah. When Jesus came he left the ultimate comfort zone, to minister not just to a people who *might* harm him, but to people who would. To save them he would have to do more than preach; he would die for them. While the original Jonah was merely thought to be dead, Jesus actually died and rose again. It was what Jesus called the sign of Jonah.”

Jonah and Us

Hidden Idols and Stress

Stress Makers—part 7

May 23, 2010

When we turn *good* things into *ultimate* things we create our own stress!

Idols in Our Culture

Idols in Religion

The Mission of Jonah

Jonah 1:1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: ² "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before Me."

Man on the Run

Jonah 1:3 But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying... he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

Man Overboard

Jonah 1:10 This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.) ¹¹ The sea was getting

rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?"¹² "Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you."

■ +1 ■

Jonah 2:1 From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. ² He said: "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry.

Jonah 2:4 I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.'

Jonah 2:8 "Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. ⁹ But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD." ¹⁰ The LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

■ **The Shocking Ending** ■

Jonah 3:1 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ² "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." ³ Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city--a visit required three days. ⁴ On the first

day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned." ⁵ The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

■ *Jonah 3:10 When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.* ■

■ *Jonah 4:1 But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. ² He prayed... "O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.* ■

Jonah 4:3 "Now, O LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

■ **Idols, Thinking, and Feeling** ■

Jonah 4:4 But the LORD replied, "Have you any right to be angry?" ⁵ Jonah went out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and
