

Gourd - Cont.

Do we really want others to be saved? We are glad that someone shared the gospel with us, but are we willing to take that same gospel to others? What can we learn?

First, we learn that God is great in mercy and not willing that any should perish (John 3:16; Acts 10:35; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9).

Second, we learn that life is about what God wants, not about what we want (John 8:29; 2 Corinthians 5:9; 2 Timothy 3:2,4).

Third, we learn that we can be caught up in the pleasures of things so much that we forget about lost souls (John 4:35; Galatians 6:1-2; James 5:19-20; Jude 22-23).

Finally, we learn that God will not accept a wrong attitude even though it follows a previous act of obedience (Acts 5:1ff; 8:13ff; Galatians 2:11ff).

There is much to be learned from the God of the gourd. Let us run to God and run with God in order to save others. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- In our modern world, many people are “better off” without being better.
- God provides food for the birds, but he doesn’t put it in their nest.
- When we waste time, we waste our lives.
- There will never be a reduction in the wages of sin.
- Keep pressing on toward the goal.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
wbcoc.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited By
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

August 8, 2021



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

⁶ And Jehovah God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to deliver him from his evil case. So Jonah was exceeding glad because of the gourd. ⁷ But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd, that it withered.

⁸ And it came to pass, when the sun arose, that God prepared a sultry east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and requested for himself that he might die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.

⁹ And God said to Jonah, Do you well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death.

¹⁰ And Jehovah said, Thou hast had regard for the gourd, for which thou hast not labored, neither made it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: ¹¹ and should not I have regard for Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than six score thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?

- Jonah 4:6-11 -

Background

Why are we told about a gourd in the Bible? This seems like a strange story. Why would God prepare a gourd for Jonah? Jonah, the prophet (2 Kings 14:25), was told to go and preach to Ninevah in order to save her (Jonah 1:1-2). Eventually he did and he was successful (Matthew 12:39-41). The people of Ninevah, including the king, repented and were saved. So, why is Jonah so displeased (Jonah 4:1)? Why is he unhappy that others have been saved? What lessons can we learn from the God of the gourd?

Jonah and God

The story of Jonah and the great fish is real. Jesus believed it was real (Matthew 12:39-41) and so we should believe it as well. But, is the story of Jonah just about a great fish, or is it more than that? The story of Jonah is more about man's relationship with God and what God wants for all mankind. God is longsuffering, not willing that any (Jew or Gentile) should perish (2 Peter 3:9). This is what Jonah had to learn and this is the main lesson of the story.

The entire story of Jonah focuses on Jonah's relationship to God. First, Jonah

runs from God in his responsibility (Jonah 1). Then, Jonah runs to God in prayer from the great fish (Jonah 2). Next, Jonah runs with God as he obeys God's will to preach (Jonah 3). Finally, Jonah runs against God in his anger over non-Jewish souls who have been saved (Jonah 4).

Jonah and Ninevah

Jonah's nationalistic, Jewish pride and prejudice did not want to see the ungodly Ninevites saved. This may seem odd to us today, but it is true. Some people want to see others lost, not saved (Proverbs 24:17; Obadiah 12; Matthew 20:15; Luke 15:25-29). But, God has other plans.

God had already prepared a "great tempest" and a "great fish" to change Jonah's actions (1:4,17). Now, God will prepare a gourd, a worm, and a wind, to change Jonah's attitude (4:6,7,8). We don't know if it worked, but we hope it did.

Jonah and Ourselves

What about ourselves? Do we see ourselves at times like Jonah?