

October 6, 2013 Sermon Application handout

“God Appointed a Worm”

The Book of Jonah

I. God’s Providence displayed on a S_____ (Jonah 1: 4-16)

1. Before you begin, take time to pray and ask God to help you to understand God’s compassionate providence in your life.

2. Review your lesson for Jonah 4. What was one specific teaching that you understood from this section and applied to your life?

3. Re-read Jonah 1-4. List out ways in which you see God’s providence in action in Jonah’s life. In other words, how do you see “God’s constant care for and His absolute rule over all His creation for His glory and the good of people?” (Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God*, p. 21-22).

4. Read the following verses. What else do you learn about God’s providence? How does this bring you encouragement?

Psalm 31:15

Psalm 147:8-9

Acts 17:24-28

2 Corinthians 9:10

5. According to Jonah 1:4, who was the source of the storm? Who was in control that day?

6. Besides creating the universe, what else does God do with respect to the universe (cf. 1 Chronicles 29:12, Hebrews 1:3, Colossians 1:7 & 1 Timothy 6:15)?

7. In light of the storm, what did the sailor's do according to Jonah 1:7 and why? Should we attribute this outcome to chance or luck? Was it simply a coincidence that the lot fell on Jonah? How does Scripture affirm the outcome of such an event (Prov. 16:33)?

8. Now ask yourself this very important question. If there was a single event in all of the universe that could occur outside of the providence or sovereignty of God, would you be able to trust Him? Why or why not?

II. God's Providence displayed in a F_____ (v. Jonah 1:17-2:1-10).

9. According to Jonah 1:17, what did God appoint, ordain, or allot?

10. Did God only work through this one animal in particular? What are some other examples in Scripture where God governed the animals? How did He use them? Feel free to add additional verses.
 - **Numbers 22:22-30**

 - **2 Kings 2:19-25**

11. What aspect of God's Providence do you see in Jonah's prayer in chapter 2:1-9? What insight does Jonah give in this passage?

12. Part of God's Providence is known as the Doctrine of Concurrence. "It affirms that there are events that are fully caused by God and fully caused by His creature as well. In other words, God directs and works through the distinctive properties of each created thing, so that they see things themselves bring about the results that we see." (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, p. 315-333). As an illustration of this, read the following narratives in Genesis 37, 39-45. How did God guide the events in Joseph's life? How did Joseph's brothers contribute to these events? Was it their choice to sell Joseph into slavery? Was it sinful? Should they be held accountable? Did God have a purpose in what he ordained for Joseph? How about Jonah? How about you when you've been wronged? How can we find comfort in this doctrine?

III. God's Providence in the C_____ (Jonah 3)

13. What did Jonah preach to the city of Ninevah according to Jonah 3:4?

14. Despite Jonah's short and vague message, how did the Ninevite's respond? What were they saved from physically and spiritually (cf. Matthew 12:38-42)?

15. What do you think explains this massive revival in the Ninevites? Do you think they had heard about the fish swallowing Jonah? Do you think the people were just more open to Jonah's message because of their difficult circumstances politically? Who ultimately is the one responsible for bringing life to those who are spiritually dead (cf. Eph. 2:3-14)?

16. When the God saw what the Ninevites did, how did He respond (Jonah 3:10)?

17. If God is in control and His purposes will inevitably triumph, should we even share the Gospel or pray for the lost? (Read Acts 4:23-31 to help formulate your answer).

III. God's Providence in the S_____ (Jonah 4)

18. According to Jonah 4:1-4 why was Jonah reluctant to go to Ninevah? What did he end up doing after he preached his short message (v. 5)?

19. What did God end up appointing 3 times according to verses 7-9? How did Jonah respond to this? What was the point in God appointing all of these things? What was his purpose according to Jonah 4:6?

20. Does it amaze you that God in His compassionate providence not only brought the fish to rescue Jonah when he was in physical trouble but God also brought the worm because Jonah was in spiritual trouble? Are you surprised that God would bring a trial in Jonah's life to rescue him from his own sinful heart? How does knowing this encourage your heart?

21. In the same way God appointed a "worm" in Jonah's life, what are some "worms" God has allowed in your life? How is He using it for your good and His glory (Rom 8:28)? What does Scripture say God's ultimate purpose is in this for you (Rom. 8:29)? How does this encourage your heart?

“God does not delight in causing us trials and bringing us heartache.
He always has a purpose for the grief He brings or allows to come into our lives.
Most often we do not know what that purpose is.
But it is enough to know in His infinite wisdom and perfect love,
He has determined that the particular sorrow is best for us.
God never wastes pain.” (Jerry Bridges)

Resources:

Trusting God Even When Life Hurts by Jerry Bridges

The Sovereignty of God by AW Pink

Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God by J.I. Packer

Bondage and Liberation of the Will by John Calvin

God's Lesser Glory by Bruce Ware

<http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/qna/sovereignfree.html>

Specific Resources for Jonah:

Jonah by Hugh Martin

Jonah by R. Reed Lessing

Obadiah, Jonah, Micah from Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries

General Resources for the Minor Prophets:

The Minor Prophets by James Montgomery Boice

The Minor Prophets by Charles Feinberg

The Prophets of Israel by Leon Wood

Major Points from the Minor Prophets by John Blanchard

A Survey of Old Testament Introduction by Gleason Archer

Interpreting the Minor Prophets by Robert Chisholm Jr