

WE CONFESS OUR NEED

Gracious Lord, we wrestle so often with our pride. There are times we are so arrogant that we believe there are others who are unworthy of your grace. As if we were somehow more worthy! As if we somehow qualified for your love because we are better than others. We confess our sin and our broken condition. Make us care for others with the passion you have for all who are lost -- even as we have been. We praise you for your grace and seek your forgiveness and renewal again. By the love of Jesus and in the power of your Spirit, forgive us. Amen.

Scripture Readings

July 13, 2008

Jonah 4

Jonah's Anger at the Lord's Compassion

But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. He prayed to the LORD, "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. Now, O LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

But the LORD replied, "Have you any right to be angry?"

Jonah went out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. 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. But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the vine so that it withered. 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."

But 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."

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. 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?"

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

Acts 10:34-38, 44-46

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

Luke 11:29-32

The Sign of Jonah

As the crowds increased, Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It asks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this

generation. The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Outline - July 13, 2008
The Book of Jonah • "I Know How You Are..."
Jonah 4

Introduction: "I know how you are..."

"I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity." v.2

1. _____ about grace?

But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry." v.1

- We believe we are _____.

2. " _____ " mentality has got to go.

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..." v.6

- Getting "grace" right.

3. A _____ of God...

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. 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?" v.10-11

- ... is _____ as well.

The heart of the Lord is mercy and grace -- always!

Answers to Sermon Outline:

exempt - or better, "I got mine.", friend, is ALWAYS our friend

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: And the people took the blessing and held it in their hearts.

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!