

Message Notes

Should I Not Have Compassion?

The Gospel According to Jonah

Jonah 4

January 21, 2007

Message Outline

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I. Jonah, the Insubordinate Servant

- A. Like the World
 - 1. He questions God's character and purposes.
 - 2. He puts himself in the place of God.

- B. Like the Church . . .
 - 1. He cares more for his own comfort than for the souls of men.
 - 2. He refuses to align himself with God's heart and compassion.

II. God, the Compassionate Sovereign

- A. The Sovereignty of God
 - 1. He suspends a judgment.
 - 2. He appoints a plant.
 - 3. He appoints a worm.
 - 4. He appoints a wind.
 - 5. He appoints all the days of each of our lives.

- B. The Compassion of God
 - 1. He cares for those He created.
 - 2. He cares for those He grew.
 - 3. He cares for those who will last.
 - 4. He cares for those who are wicked, yet ignorant.
 - 5. He cares for His insubordinate servant.

- C. The Sanctity of Life
 - 1. We must know the basis of the sanctity of life in the sovereignty and compassion of God.
 - 2. We must understand the cultural battleground where life is being devalued and trampled.
 - 3. We must join God in His love and labor for all life at every age and stage.
 - 4. We must serve those whose lives are at risk, and seek to love those who put life at risk.

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read Jonah 3:10-4:11 again. Why is Jonah angry? What does Jonah want? How does God deal with him?
2. Here we learn the reason why Jonah sailed to Tarshish. What is that reason?
3. What are the 3 things that God explicitly appoints in chapter 4? For what purpose? What does the Bible teach that God appoints in Psalm 139:16? What does the sovereignty of God have to do with the exercise of His grace, despite Jonah's expectations?
4. Look carefully at v. 10. What three things does He say about the plant that Jonah has compassion on? What is He saying about His own and Jonah's lack of compassion toward the Ninevites? (Are people really more valuable than plants?)
5. What does Jonah really care about? What does God care about?
6. What does God say about the people of Nineveh in v. 11? Does this mean they were not guilty? Is ignorance an excuse for our guilt?

Growth Group Application Questions

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1. What was new and most challenging in the text/message this week and why?
2. What do we mean when we speak of the sanctity of life? Why would our church take a Sunday a year to address the topic of the sanctity of life?
3. How is Jonah like the world in relation to the sanctity of life? How is man questioning the character and sovereignty of God? How is man taking the place of sovereign God in the area of bioethics? In legalized abortion? In human cloning? In embryonic stem cell research? In euthanasia and assisted suicide?
4. How is the church like Jonah in relation to the sanctity of life? Why are we so ignorant and apathetic about these issues?
5. Why is the sovereignty of God one half of the basis of the Biblical view of sanctity of life? Why is the compassion of God the other half of the basis of the sanctity of life?
6. Review and talk through the 4 calls to action under "The Sanctity of Life" section of the outline. Which of the four do you most need to pursue? Which is hardest? Which are happening here at Grace? What is one specific thing you can do to affirm the sanctity of life this week?