

Jonah and the Worm

Jonah 4, Ephesians 3:16-20

June 9, 2019

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. What is a small comfort that you find yourself attached to?
2. There is the familiar idiom, "Can't see the forest for the trees." How has this been true for you? What was the situation or occasion?
3. Who are the Nineveh in your life? Who are the people you feel do not deserve the grace of God?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Read Jonah 4. Was Jonah justified in being angry about Nineveh? How about the vine and the worm? What was your reaction to God's action throughout this story?
2. Elijah also had once uttered words similar to Jonah, wishing to be dead rather than enduring his circumstances (see I Kings 19). Compare the leading causes of these claims from the two prophets. What similar entitlements were they sharing? Compare also how God answered their respective pleas. What can you learn from these two stories?
3. The story of Jonah concludes with an open ending. Does it convey hope or despair to you? Why do you think it was written this way? What hope does it offer us as fellow followers of Christ in our own walk of faith?
4. Reflect over the entire Jonah series. What are some things that have resonated with you or that you've learned?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Jonah's attitude illustrates how difficult it can be to overcome our own prejudices and anger issues, even with the Holy Spirit. How might we take steps towards letting ourselves be more open to the Spirit's transformation?
2. What do you feel most entitled to as a Christian? What do you think God 'owes' you because of your devotion, endurance of trials or the testing of your faith? How does it affect your practice of faith? How can you avoid feeling and acting this way?
3. Pastor Julie encouraged us to examine our lives for issues we might be focusing on but are missing out on the larger picture. Take some time to reflect, share, and pray.