

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
SERMON OUTLINE
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Series #10 Understanding the Book of Jonah

“THE PREACHER AND HIS SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS”

Jonah 4:9-11

Just what is Spiritual Blindness? The incapacity to see as God sees, to fail to understand the will of God; incapable of understanding the word of God. Many in our world today have this disease called spiritual blindness.

Jonah had seen the mighty hand of God in the conversion of over 120,000 people in Nineveh. **Jonah did not praise God for His work in Nineveh, but Jonah pouted because of God’s work in Nineveh.**

In *chapter 1*, he learned the lesson of God's **providence and patience**, that you can't run away from God. In *chapter 2*, he learned the lesson of God's **pardon**, that God forgives those who call upon Him. In *chapter 3*, he learned the lesson of **God's power** as he saw a whole city humble itself before the Lord. Now in *chapter 4* he had to learn the **lesson of God's pity** on Nineveh.

God always responds to spiritual blindness and this text reveals some responses that God had toward Jonah’s spiritual blindness.

I. THE REBUKE FROM THE MASTER Vs. 9-10

A. A Ludicrous Statement by Jonah V-9

Jonah’s anger was that God had smote the plant that brought him physical comfort and that God had forgiven Nineveh that brought eternal comfort to the people of Nineveh.

Spiritual blindness will always lead to bitterness, resentment, anger, and self-pity. Jonah was miserable, mad, bitter and had self-pity. Remember - **You can be a child of God and still have on spiritual blinders. Jonah was a hardheaded prophet because Jonah was a hardhearted prophet.**

B. A Lesson Shown to Jonah V-10

Jonah had compassion on the *plant* while God had compassion on the *people*. In *V-6*, I believe that this gourd was prepared in the same way that God prepared the fish – supernaturally.

II. THE REVELATION OF HIS MERCY V-11

Jonah’s rebellion and sin had so dimmed his spiritual perception that he could not understand his own words. *Jonah 4:2.*

Sin can so harden us that we reject the things that we know about God.

A. The Company of the Gentiles V-11b

The Bible says that more than 120,000 people lived in Nineveh. God’s compassion was not just because of the multitudes. God’s is merciful to individuals.

B. The Condition of the Gentiles V-11c

They could not discern. **“Discern”**: (*yada; yaw-dah*) means to know by observing, reflecting, thinking, and to know by experiencing. Our society promotes evil, calls right wrong, and wrong right! *Isaiah 5:20-21.* God was showing His mercy to the prophet Jonah and through the prophet Jonah. God was teaching Jonah a great lesson about His wonderful mercy. Here is a good description of lost sinners; they cannot discern between their right hand and their left. God will always get the last word. We do not know what happened to the prophet Jonah or how he responded to God's discipline.

Do you see with the eyes of Jesus? Do you love with the heart of Jesus? Are you reaching out to the poor, the dirty, the wayward, and the sinner? Has the Lord rebuked you because of your spiritual blindness? Would you let Him correct your vision and ignite your passion?