

INTRODUCTION

A. TESTIMONY TO THE GRACE OF GOD

B. PROVIDENTIAL SERMON: *BELLY* (w/heart, mind, will; conscience; etc.; i.e., the *attributes* of man)

C. EXAMPLES: EMPTY/FULL; POTBELLY PIG; BEER BELLY; “JELLY BELLY”; BELLY FAT

I. DEFINITION/S

A. BASIC: HOLLOW (body cavity/ies; see Jon.1:17=Mt.12:40)

B. LOWER BODY: STRENGTH, REPRODUCTION incl. *womb*, Gen.25:23 (Job 40:16; Dan.2:32; *guts*)

C. INNER PERSON: DESIRE(HUNGER), MOTIVATION (Prov.18:8; 20:27; 22:18; Rom.16:18; Phil.3:19; Tt.1:12; *fire in belly; belly laugh*)

II. LESSONS FOR FAITH

A. ULTIMATE HUMILIATION (Gen.3:14; see Lev.11:42; e.g., *groveling*)

B. BLESSING & CURSING (2Chr.21:15f (&Herods); Prv.13:25; Eccl.5:12f; see Eccl.2:24,etc.; 1Tm.4:1f; 5:23; see Ezk.3:3; Rev.10:9,10)

C. EXTREME VULNERABILITY (Jdg.3:21f; 2Sam.2:23; 3:27; 4:6; 20:10; see Gen.3:6/Mt.4:1f; *punch in gut*)

D. STORAGE & PROCESSING (Job 20:15,23; Ps.17:14; Mt.15:17; Lk.15:16; *empty/full belly*)

E. READY TO EXPLODE (Job 32:19; *belly full*)

F. BEAUTY FEATURE (Song 7:2; *rounded belly/flat abs*)

G. STRONG PRISON (Jon.1:17f=Mt.12:40; see Ps.89:48; Jer.51:34; but Acts2:24; Heb.2:14)

H. WOMB OF DESIRE (Jms.1:15; Job20:14; Jer.4:19; Lk.10:33(1Jn.3:17); Phil.2:1; *gut feelings*)

I. A TEMPORARY GOOD (Eccl.2:24,etc.; 1Tm.4:1f; see 1Cor.6:13; Mt.22:30)

J. SERVANT/MASTER

a. legalistic *self-righteousness*: adding to God’s law (Phil.3:19,20,1f w/Mk.7:19; Gal.2:11f; 1Cor.9:22f; 10:23f; Col.2:21; 1Tm.4:3f)

b. licentiousness *self-indulgence*: subtracting from God’s law (Rom.16:18; Tt.1:12; see 2Pt.2:12)

III. LESSONS FOR LIFE

A. TEMPTATIONS OF THE BELLY: FEED YOUR HUNGER (Gen.3:6/Mt.4:3; see Mt.6:10)

B. SINS OF THE BELLY: SEE-FOOD DIET (Jms.1:15; see Mk.4:19; 1Jn.2:16 /Rom.16:18; Phil.3:19; Tt.1:12)

C. DEATH OF THE BELLY: SEE-FOOD (see 1Tm.5:23f; temporally, also spatially)

D. REBELLY! (Rom.16:18(7:23); Eccl.6:7; see Eccl.2:24; 3:13; 5:18; 1Tm.4:1f; 6:8; Phil.4:11; 1Cor.9:27)

E. TAKE CARE OF YOUR SPIRITUAL BELLY (Mk7:18f; Ps40:8; 119:11; Heb4:12 /Col.3:5f,12f; 1Cor.11:24f)

F. TRUE SATISFACTION (Mt.11:28f; Jn.7:37f; 6:55; 1Cor.11:24,25)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

*Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest **interest** to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be **useful**, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.*

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What Scripture references were most helpful and why?
4. What are the primary *doctrinal* points of this passage? Do you *believe* these things?
5. What are the primary *practical* points? Do you do *these* things?
6. What is the *basic* biblical significance of the belly? (I,A)
 - a. What is the significance of the *physical* belly? (I,B)
 - b. What is the significance of the *spiritual* belly? (I,C)
7. How is the belly... (see under II)
 - a. Humiliated?
 - b. Vulnerable?
 - c. Blessed?
 - d. Cursed?
 - e. Useful?
 - f. Limited?
 - g. Beautiful?
 - h. Strong?
 - i. Emotional?
 - j. Temporary?
8. Is your belly your servant or your master? (II,J)
 - a. Does your belly lead you into self-righteousness? If so, how? If not, how do you avoid this?
 - b. Does your belly lead you into self-indulgence? If so, how? If not, how do you avoid this?
9. What the temptations, sins and death of your belly?
10. Are you rebelling against your belly in these things? If so, how? If not, why not?
11. How do you take care of your spiritual belly? How should you? How will you?
12. What is the only thing that can satisfy your belly?