

“Whom The Lord Loveth . . .”
Jonah 4:7-9

Introduction:

1. Lets Head Back This Morning To The Last Chapter Of Jonah:
 - Jonah Chapter 4!
 - Where We Are Absolutely Amazed At The Change That Has Taken Place In Jonah!
 - Amazed & Dumfounded!
 - For God Had Just Used Jonah:
 - In One Of The Greatest Spiritual Awakenings In The History Of The World!
 - In Chapter 3 - The Entire City Of Nineveh - Known For Its Greatness & Its Wickedness - Repented From Their Sin & Turned To The Lord!
 - And Instead Of Destroying Them:
 - God Showed Them Mercy!
 - And Jonah Had A Front Row Seat Through It All!
 - But Instead Of Rejoicing For The Ninevites:
 - We Read In 4:1 - “But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry!”
 - For Whatever Reason:
 - Jonah Wanted Nineveh To Experience God’s Judgment Instead Of His Mercy!
 - And As One Writer Puts It - “Jonah Shows Himself To Be A Man Still In Human Skin, Prone To Wander And Sin!” (Estelle)
2. And Now - All Through Chapter 4:
 - God’s Attention Is Back On Jonah!
 - Because It Is Clear - That Something Was Still Missing!
 - God Was After Jonah’s Heart!
 - And In This Chapter:
 - We See Not Only How The Lord Deals With Jonah, But Often How He Deals With Us, When Things Are Still Missing In Our Hearts!
 - First - The Lord Approached Jonah:
 - With A Gracious Question!
 - In 4:4 - “Then Said The Lord, Doest Thou Well To Be Angry?”
 - A Simple / Quiet Question:
 - To Get Jonah To Stop & Think About The Condition Of His Heart!
 - But - No Answer Is Recorded To The Lord’s Question:
 - At Least - No Words Recorded!
 - But His Response Is Recorded In 4:5, When He Sits Down To “See What Would Become Of The City!”
 - Then - The Lord Approached Jonah:
 - With A Gracious Provision!
 - In 4:6 - God Provided A Special Plant To Give Jonah Comfort & Relief!
 - And Through This Plant - God Proved To Jonah The Truth About His Character!
 - That He Really Is:
 - “A Gracious God, And Merciful, Slow To Anger, And Of Great Kindness!” (4:2)
 - But How Did Jonah Respond:
 - To The Lord’s Goodness To Him?
 - In The Words Of 4:6:
 - “So Jonah Was Exceeding Glad For The Gourd!”
 - Jonah Was Happy About The Provision!
 - But His Heart Was Still Closed To The Provider!
 - So Now, The Lord Will Approach Jonah:
 - With His Gracious Correction!
 - Which We Read About In 4:7-9 - “But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered. / And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live. / And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death!”
 - Even Though God Is Now Dealing With Jonah:
 - In A More Stern & Harsh Way:

- It Is Still A Display Of His Grace & Mercy & Love!
- How Can We Know This?
 - As Hebrews 12:6 Reminds Us - “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth / correcteth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth!”
- God Shows His Love & Grace To Us:
 - Even When He Corrects & Chastens!
 - Because He Is Doing So As A Father!
 - Jonah - For All Of His Faults & Failures & Sins:
 - Was Still God’s Son!
- 3. Whenever We Find Ourselves To Be Like Jonah:
 - Whether Something Is Missing In Our Conduct:
 - And We Have Disobeyed The Lord!
 - Or Whether Something Is Missing In Our Character:
 - And We Are Not Reflecting God’s Heart In Our Own!
 - Then Sometimes God Will Have To Chasten & Correct Us:
 - In Ways That Are Similar To What We See Here In Jonah!
 - But Remember:
 - **God Is No Less Gracious:**
 - When He Chastens You & Corrects You!
 - Because:
 - “Whom The Lord Loveth He Chasteneth!”
 - What Are Some Ways God May Chasten / Correct Us?

* Sometimes God May Chasten & Correct Us:

1. Through What He Removes!

- Like What He Removed From Jonah In:
 - 4:7 - “But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered!”
 - In Order To Chasten Us, Sometimes The Lord Will Take Away That Which Gives Us Comfort & Delight, If Our Delight Is Not In Him!
 - Just Like He Did With Jonah!
 - What Did God Remove From Jonah?
 - The Gourd / Plant That Gave Jonah Such Relief & Delight!
- How Did The Lord Do This?
 - “But God Prepared A Worm!”
 - Once Again We Read That Word - “Prepared!”
 - This Shows Us That God Was In Complete Control Of Jonah’s Situation!
 - The First Time It Was Used In This Book:
 - God Prepared A Fish! Why?
 - To Deliver Jonah!
 - The Next Time It Was Used In This Book:
 - God Prepared A Gourd! Why?
 - To Comfort & Relieve Jonah!
 - This Time:
 - God Prepared A Worm! Why?
 - To Chasten Jonah & To Wake Up His Heart!
 - And God “Prepared” This Worm:
 - Or A Beetle-Grub:
 - To Eat The Life Out Of The Plant That God Gave To Him In The First Place!
 - And Just As Quickly As The Plant Sprang Up!
 - In One Day!
 - By The Next Morning:
 - It Was Gone! But:
- Why Did The Lord Do This?
 - So That The Gourd / Plant Would “Wither” & Die!
 - And Become Useless To Jonah!
 - No More Shade / Coolness / Oxygen / Life / Even Companionship! **IE:** Plants!
 - See - Jonah Set His Heart On:

- Something Fragile! Like The Gourd!
- Something Futile! Like The Temporary Relief & Comfort It Provided!
- His Heart Was Not Set On Something That:
 - Would Last Forever!
- So The Lord Graciously Removed:
 - What Would Distract Jonah – From Him!
 - Not Out Of Spite!
 - But Out Of Love!
 - Because The Lord Knew:
 - What Jonah Really Needed!
 - And What Would Really Comfort Jonah & Give Him Lasting Relief!
- Sometimes The Lord Needs To Do The Same For Us!
 - Sometimes He May Need To:
 - Graciously Remove What Distracts Us From Him!
 - We Must Never Forget That:
 - Anything We Have That Gives Us Comfort Or Relief Or Pleasure Comes From God!
 - And Must Never Come Before The Lord!
 - For What He Gives:
 - He Can Take Away!
 - This Is What Job Clearly Understood:
 - Job 1:21 - “The Lord Gave, And The Lord Hath Taken Away; Blessed Be The Name Of The Lord!”
 - So Don’t Put Your Delight In:
 - What Is Temporary!
 - Like The Comforts & Pleasures In This World!
 - But Put It In What Is Timeless!
 - Psalm 37:4 - “Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart!”
- God May Chasten & Correct Us:
 - Through What He Removes From Us!
 - But Remember - “Whom The Lord Loveth He Chasteneth!”
 - And As Matthew Henry Once Wrote About This Verse:
 - “Though Our Gourd Be Gone Our God Is Not Gone! And There Is Enough In Him To Make Up All Our Losses!” – So Return To Him!

* Sometimes God May Chasten & Correct Us:

2. Through What He Sends!

- Like What He Sent To Jonah In:
 - 4:8 - “And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live!”
 - In Order To Chasten Us, Sometimes The Lord Will Send Us Something That May Cause Us Pain & Discomfort!
 - Just Like He Did With Jonah!
 - What Did God Send To Jonah?
 - An Unrelenting / Unbearable Heat!
- The Record Of His Chastening:
 - One More Time We Find That God:
 - “Prepared” Something As He Pursued Jonah!
 - This Time:
 - God “Prepared A Vehement East Wind!”
 - That Brought Even More Heat With It Than The Sun That “Beat Upon The Head Of Jonah!”
 - God Was Doing This!
 - And Was In Complete Control!
 - All To Get The Attention Of Jonah!
 - Now - Usually Wind Can Be A Relief When It Is Hot!
 - But Not This Wind!

- It Was More Like A Bellows Than A Fan!
 - **IE:** The Blacksmith At Conner Prairie!
 - Made It Hotter / Drier / Dustier / More Miserable With Every Passing Minute!
- And There Was:
 - No Shade & No Shelter That Could Give Him Relief!
- But What Was:
 - The Result Of His Chastening?
 - It Says That Jonah “Fainted!”
 - He Was Very Close To A Heat-Stroke!
 - But Even Though He “Fainted” Physically:
 - He Did Not Need To “Faint” In His Heart Before The Lord!
 - He Could Have Repented & Returned To The Lord, Even Though His Body Was So Hot & Weak & Sick!
 - See This In 2 Corinthians 4:16 - Paul - “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day!”
 - This Could Have Been The Testimony Of Jonah!
 - Because God Had Already Paved The Way Back!
 - The Judgment Of Jonah’s Sin Would Be Taken By Another!
 - That Is Why God Could Deal With Jonah Like A Son!
 - And Not As His Enemy!
 - And Jonah Could Return & Be Renewed!
 - In An Instant!
 - But Instead, We See:
 - The Response To His Chastening:
 - Jonah - “Wished In Himself To Die, And Said, It Is Better For Me To Die Than To Live!”
 - Jonah Took It Upon Himself To Tell The Lord:
 - What Was Best For Him!
 - That It Was Best For Him To Die!
 - But God, In His Grace, Was Not Yet Through With Jonah!
 - The Lord Graciously Sent:
 - What Would Awaken Jonah Back To Him!
 - Not Out Of Anger!
 - But Out Of Love!
 - Because The Lord Knew:
 - What Jonah Really Needed!
 - And That His “Inward Man” Needed To Be Renewed!
 - And Sometimes The Lord Needs To Do The Same For Us!
 - Sometimes He May Need To:
 - Graciously Send What Will Awaken Us Back To Him!
 - Elizabeth Prentiss, The Writer Of The Hymn: “More Love To Thee” Understood This When She Wrote These Challenging Words As A Prayer:
 - “Let Sorrow Do Its Work, Send Grief And Pain; Sweet Are Thy Messengers, Sweet Their Refrain; When They Can Sing With Me, More Love, O Christ, To Thee! More Love To Thee, More Love To Thee!”
 - God May Chasten & Correct Us:
 - Through What He Sends To Us!
 - But Remember - “Whom The Lord Loveth He Chasteneth!”
 - He Does So Because He Has Already Paved The Way For Us To Go Back To Him!
 - If You Have Come To Jesus Christ – The Judgment Of Your Sin Has Already Been Taken Away Through Him!
 - So Now He Can Deal With You As His Son Or His Daughter!
 - And He Wants You To Return To Fellowship With Him!

* Sometimes God May Chasten & Correct Us:

3. ***Through What He Reveals!***

- Like What He Revealed To Jonah In:
 - 4:9 - “And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death!”

- In Order To Chasten Us, Sometimes The Lord Will Reveal The Truth About Us, And To Bring Us Back To Him!
- Just Like He Did With Jonah!
 - What Did God Reveal About Jonah?
 - His True Heart!
- The Question:
 - God Asks Jonah Another Question:
 - That Is Very Similar To His First Question!
 - He Asks:
 - “Doest Thou Well To Be Angry?”
 - Well - Of Course Jonah Was Angry!
 - He Was Angry About:
 - God’s Mercy To The Ninevites!
 - Found This Out In 4:1!
 - But Then God Adds This To His Question:
 - “Doest Thou Well To Be Angry – For The Gourd!”
 - This Is Something New!
 - Jonah Had Been Glad – “Exceeding Glad”:
 - When The Gourd Was Alive!
 - And Gave Him Shade & Comfort!
 - But Now God Reveals That He Was “Angry”:
 - Not At The Gourd / But For The Gourd:
 - Now That It Was Dead!
 - Jonah’s Response Was The Exact Opposite:
 - Of Job’s Response!
 - Instead Of:
 - “The Lord Gave, And The Lord Hath Taken Away; Blessed Be The Name Of The Lord!”
 - Jonah’s Response Was More Like:
 - “The Lord Gave, And The Lord Hath Taken Away; And I’m Mad At You God, For Taking It Away!”
 - How Many Have Been Angry Like This:
 - Because Of What God Gave Them & Then Took Away?
 - With This Exposure Of His True Heart - Would Jonah:
 - Finally Repent & Return To The Lord? Look At:
- The Answer:
 - “And He Said, I Do Well To Be Angry, Even Unto Death!”
 - Jonah Admits His Anger, But Sees It As A Righteous Anger – Against God!
 - And The Sense Of These Words Is That He Is Almost Shouting At God & Blaming Him!
 - If Only Jonah Had Listened To The Lord The First Time He Asked This Question!
 - “Doest Thou Well To Be Angry?”
- But The Lord Graciously Revealed:
 - What Was Really Going On In His Heart!
 - Again - Out Of Love!
 - Because The Lord Knew:
 - What Jonah Really Needed!
 - He Needed To Be Back In Fellowship With Him!
- And Sometimes The Lord Needs To Do The Same For Us!
 - Sometimes He May Need To:
 - Graciously Reveal What Is Really Going On In Our Hearts!
 - Sometimes Privately!
 - Sometimes Very Publically!
- God May Chasten & Correct Us:
 - Through What He Reveals About Us!
 - But Remember - “Whom The Lord Loveth He Chasteneth!”
 - He Does So Because He Loves You!
 - And He Wants You To Return To Him!

Conclusion:

1. These Are Just Some Of The Ways That God May Use:
 - To Chasten & Correct Us:
 - And To Bring Our Hearts Back To Him!
 - Sometimes He May:
 - Remove Something:
 - That We Love!
 - Sometimes He May:
 - Send Something:
 - That Stings!
 - Sometimes He May:
 - Reveal The Truth About Us!
 - Even Openly & For All To See!
 - But It Is All Because:
 - He Loves You & Knows What Is Best For You!
 - He Wants You To Return To Him With All Of Your Heart!
2. When God Is In The Process Of Correcting You:
 - Remember This:
 - “Whom The Lord Loveth He Chasteneth!”
 - The Lord Is Not Dealing With You:
 - As With An Enemy Or As An Unbeliever!
 - He Is Dealing With You As His Son Or His Daughter!
 - Because The Punishment Of Your Sin Has Already Been Paid For By The Lord Jesus On The Cross!
 - So Learn From Him!
 - And Return To Him!
 - There Is No Reason For You To Wait!
 - After All:
 - We Know The Character Of God!
3. That He Is:
 - “A Gracious God, And Merciful, Slow To Anger, And Of Great Kindness!”

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