JONATHAN JEE

Jonah

Jonathan's dad was a village vicar, and he grew up swearing that he would not be ordained - but God turned him round at university and he was ordained in 1988, aged 25. He was a curate in Chesterfield (St. Thomas, Brampton), then Team Vicar at St. John's Hinckley, from 1992-2000.

He was on the first Arrow program back in 1999-2000, during which time the Lord called him to become the Vicar of St. Paul's in Leamington, and he has been there ever since. St Paul's has seen slow, steady, unspectacular growth over the years, and is now a Mission Hub church for Coventry Diocese.

While called to stay at St. Paul's, Jonathan has been given wider ministry responsibility in recent years. As well as developing the Mission Hub, he is Area Dean, Chair of the DEF (Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship) and on General Synod.

He is married to Juliet, and they have five adult children and seven grandchildren, with another on the way. He used to play a lot of sport (cricket, golf, tennis, squash) but it's mostly armchair sport now. He enjoys walking with Juliet, and they are slowly working their way round the South West Coast Path.

JONATHAN JEE
Vicar
St Paul's Church, Leicester Street, Leamington Spa CV32 4TE

E jonathan.jee@stpl.org.uk

JONAH 1

Jonah Gives Up On God, But God Does Not Give Up On Jonah

THINKING ABOUT JONAH

Jonah son of Amittai – see 2 Kings 14:25

Ninevah was 'One of the cruelest and most violent empires of ancient times. Emperor Shalmaneser III is well known for depicting torture, dismembering and decapitations of his enemies in grisly detail on large stone relief panels... Assyrian history is as gory and bloodcurdling a history as we know – a terrorist state'.

The Prodigal Prophet, Timothy Keller (p10-11)

Why did Jonah run away?

- Fear?
- Hatred of Ninevah?
- Because he couldn't see any good reason to obey?

JONAH 1

Jonah Gives Up On God, But God Does Not Give Up On Jonah

THINKING ABOUT STORMS

- Some storms come as a result of our own sin (e.g. Jonah).

- Some storms come as a result of following Jesus (e.g. Matthew 8).

- Sometimes you are caught up in a storm that Is not your fault (e.g. the sailors).

God will use them all to make us more like Jesus (Romans 8:28).

©CPAS

JONAH 1

Jonah Gives Up On God, But God Does Not Give Up On Jonah

THINKING ABOUT GOD

- Jonah knows in his head that God is good (4:2).

- God sends or 'provides':

  ⇒ The wind.

  ⇒ The fish.

  ⇒ The plant.

  ⇒ The worm.

  ⇒ A scorching wind.

JONAH 1

Jonah Gives Up On God, But God Does Not Give Up On Jonah

©CPAS

JONAH 2

Reaching the End of Your Resources and Understanding Grace

JONAH STARTS PRAYING AGAIN FROM INSIDE THE FISH

Keller quotes Jim Packer, author of Knowing God, saying that lots of people talk about God's grace, but there are three truths we need to grasp to understand grace fully:

1. Our moral ill-desert.

2. Our spiritual impotence.

3. The cost of our salvation.

JONAH 2

Reaching the End of Your Resources and Understanding Grace

Grace is not just for salvation, but for daily life and ministry as well.

- Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.

  2 Corinthians 4:1

- '...How often God allows his ministers to come to an end of themselves in order that they might begin to be more useful in his service.'

  Alastair Begg, in his foreword in Zeal Without Burnout: Seven Keys to a Lifelong Ministry of Sustainable Sacrifice, Chris Ash (The Good Book Company)

©CPAS

JONAH 2

Reaching the End of Your Resources and Understanding Grace

THESE INWARD TRIALS

I asked the Lord, that I might grow
In faith, and love, and every grace;
Might more of His salvation know,
And seek more earnestly His face.

I hoped that in some favoured hour
At once He'd answer my request,
And by His love's constraining power
Subdue my sins, and give me rest.

Instead of this, He made me feel
The hidden evils of my heart;
And let the angry powers of hell
Assault my soul in every part.

Yea more, with His own hand He seemed
Intent to aggravate my woe;
Crossed all the fair designs I schemed,
Blasted my gourds, and laid me low.

'Lord, why is this?' I trembling cried,
'Wilt thou pursue Thy worm to death?'
''Tis in this way,' the Lord replied,
I answer prayer for grace and faith.

These inward trials I employ
From self and pride to set thee free;
And break thy schemes of earthly joy,
That thou may'st seek thy all in me.

John Newton

(John Newton's poem is mentioned in Knowing God, Jim Packer, p 286.)

JONAH 2

Reaching the End of Your Resources and Understanding Grace

©CPAS

JONAH 3

Obeying God's Call On Our Lives, and God's Amazing Grace

GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

God has work for all of us to do, but it is all grace (Ephesians 2:1-10).

JONAH 3

Obeying God's Call On Our Lives, and God's Amazing Grace

GOD'S CALL

Eugene Peterson (Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration in Vocational Holiness), on dealing with the inner storms of pastoral ministry:

- Geography (the reality of Ninevah not the dream of Tarshish).

- And Eschatology (Jonah 3:4 – Hebrews 9:27) – is there enough eternity in our preaching?

©CPAS

JONAH 3

Obeying God's Call On Our Lives, and God's Amazing Grace

GOD'S POWER

Nothing is impossible for God.

Is your vision big enough? Ephesians 3:20-21.

JONAH 3

Obeying God's Call On Our Lives, and God's Amazing Grace

©CPAS

JONAH 4

God Wants to Deal with Our Emotions and Help Us Understand Grace More Deeply

Parallel with the Prodigal Son (The Prodigal Prophet, Tim Keller).

- Jonah 1-2 is like the younger brother.

- Jonah 3-4 is like the older brother.

JONAH 4

God Wants to Deal with Our Emotions and Help Us Understand Grace More Deeply

Grace is shocking

- E.g. workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20).

- E.g. What's So Amazing About Grace? Philip Yancey.

©CPAS

JONAH 4

God Wants to Deal with Our Emotions and Help Us Understand Grace More Deeply

Jonah's anger

- God asking gentle questions, e.g. vv4,9.

Emotionally Healthy Discipleship, Peter Scazzero:

- 'Success is becoming the person that God has made you to be, and doing what he calls you to do, in his way and according to his timetable' p73-74.

- Danger of going beyond the call of God and becoming angry and self-righteous and burning out.

- Pay attention to your emotions.

  ⇒ Ignatius on consolation and desolation.

JONAH 4

God Wants to Deal with Our Emotions and Help Us Understand Grace More Deeply

God's grace is wider than we know.

- Jonah 4:2.

- Exodus 34:6.

'They cannot tell their right hand from their left', 4:11.

- I.e. 'they do not know what they are doing'.

- Jesus' amazing grace, 'Father forgive them'.

©CPAS