

We will begin the second lecture on the Minor Prophets. /Today we will begin with Jonah 2:6.

/Read verse 6. /To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD my God.

/In chapter 2, Jonah prayed from inside the stomach of the fish. /Jonah prayed in a life-and-death situation. /Jonah thoroughly repented. /Here, Jonah said, "To the roots of the mountains I sank down."

/This means that Jonah went down to the depths of the sea. /This means that Jonah went down to a pitiable state. /Jonah went down to the lowest place. /He also said, "the earth beneath barred me in forever."

/No one can come out if he is barred in somewhere. /In the same way, Jonah was trapped in the sea. /He also prayed, "But you brought my life up from the pit."

/Jonah spoke in past tense here. /This shows that Jonah had confidence in his salvation from the stomach of the fish. /Mark 11:23, 24. /There is no hope in man thinking about coming out of the stomach of a fish. /However, Jonah had confidence that God would surely save him.

/Verse 7. /"When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.

/Jonah believed that his prayer would be delivered to God. /Jonah was tired in spirit. /He faced hardships. /He had no hope. /However, he was disappointed, but continued to have hope. /He looked upon God.

/Verse 8. /"Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.

/Jonah repented of his past sins. /Jonah repented for chasing after worthless things in the past. /He repented of his disobedience. /He repented of leaving God's word. /Whoever leaves God serves worthless idols. /The things of the world are all worthless. /Ecclesiastes 1:2, 8.

/Verse 9. /But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD."

/Jonah gave thanks in the midst of hardships. /He believed in God who works for the good of all who love him. /We must give thanks not only when things go well, but when we face difficulties as well. /Jonah said that what he had vowed he would make good. /1 Samuel 1:10, 11. /Genesis 18:20.

/Jonah had confidence as he repented that God would save him. /Then he said that he

would obey God if he saved him. /Jonah made a vow to God. /Jonah repented in the fish's stomach, and he became a servant of God. /Jonah's time in the fish was like spending time at a seminary.

/Verse 10. /And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

/God commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land. /God controls the fish. /God protected Jonah so that he wouldn't die in the fish's stomach. /God allowed Jonah to come out of there. /Matthew 12:39.

/This was the sign of Jonah. /Jonah was the antitype of Jesus, who would be in the tomb for three days and then resurrect from the dead. /Jonah had no choice but to die, but he lived. /Jesus rose from the dead in three days. /This happened according to God's word.

/We will continue with chapter 3. /The title of chapter 3 is "The Repentance of Nineveh."

/First, Jonah obeys the word of the Lord. /Verses 1-3. /Second, Jonah's evangelism. /Verse 4. /Third, the repentance of the people of Nineveh. /Verses 5-9. /Fourth, God forgives Nineveh and does not bring disaster. /Verse 10.

/Read verses 1-2. /Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

/God commanded Jonah once again. /This was God's second command. /Jonah was now out of the fish's stomach, and he walked to Nineveh. /First, in other translations, God told Jonah to "Get up." /This meant that Jonah was to abandon disobedience.

/This means that all who are lazy must get up. /They must have courage and be strengthened with God's power and go forward. /Second, God told Jonah to "Go." /Romans 10:14. /Matthew 28:19. /If we want to preach the gospel, we must "Go."

/We must "Go" and evangelize, /whether we go by boat, /walk, /take the train, /ride a donkey, /or fly on a plane. /Sometimes we do not go, but stay put and pray, "Save the people in Africa." Certainly, we must pray, but we must also "Go."

/We must pray from behind, and missionaries must go forward in the front. /Next, third, we must proclaim God's command. /Ezekiel 3:11. /Romans 1:14. /Jeremiah 1:7. /We do not have to worry about how we will share God's word.

/We must go where God sends us. /We do not have to worry about what to say. /We must speak what God tells us to speak. /Here, God gave Jonah a second chance.

/We must obey when God commands us. /If Jonah disobeyed God a second, third, or a fourth time, God would have abandoned Jonah. /If we continuously do not obey, God will leave us. /Therefore, we must obey when God gives us the chance to.

/Verse 3. /Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city-- a visit required three days.

/Nineveh was a big city. /It was the capital city of Assyria. /According to scholars, the circumference of the city of Nineveh was 145 kilometers, /and it had a population of about one million. /This was a very big city.

/Verse 4. /On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned."

/Jonah walked all day and proclaimed God's word. /"Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned." /Jonah's evangelism was simple. /Evangelizing is not difficult. /Jesus evangelized to the disciples, "Come."

/"Repent, for the kingdom is near." /Pastor Choi, Kwon Neung of Korea's early churches evangelized while saying, "Jesus, Heaven." /We must not think that evangelizing is difficult. /We must speak what God tells us to speak.

/We must preach, "Jesus came to die on the cross for us. Jesus is alive." /Jonah went to Nineveh and said, "Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days if you do not repent." /This meant that the people would be destroyed if they did not repent.

/Verse 5. /The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

/The Ninevites believed God. /They declared a fast. /Then they repented and became humble. /They heard Jonah and they believed in God. /This was God's great grace.

/Those who hear God's servants and repent will receive great blessings. /2 Chronicles 25:15. /How did so many people repent? /First, it was God's grace. /Second, it was Jonah's power.

/Jonah prayed in a life-and-death situation in the stomach of a fish. /He surpassed great hardships. /Thus, he gained power. /The people of Nineveh heard Jonah and immediately repented. /Matthew 12:41.

/However, in Jesus' time, the people heard Jesus but did not repent. /The king of Nineveh declared a fast. /The king also repented.

/Verse 6. /When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust.

/All the people and even the king repented. /They became humble. /Then all the people repented. /No one believed that this would happen. /When we evangelize, God does the work. /When I evangelize, God saves lives with his power.

/Verse 7. /Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink.

/Then the king declared that not even the animals were to eat or drink. /This was because animals belong to man. /The animals did not have sins. /However, because they were under the care of man, they too needed to participate.

/In this way, all the people repented and cried out to God asking for forgiveness. /What was more important was that they abandoned all wicked acts. /They left the road of wickedness. /They did not repent only with their words.

/They sincerely repented with their actions. /They abandoned the road of wrongdoings. /They stopped doing evil. /Isaiah 58:6. /True repentance is important. /God then forgave the sins of Nineveh.

/Verse 10. /When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

/God forgave the people of Nineveh because they repented and turned from their evil ways. /Psalm 139:1, 3. /God heard their prayers. /1 Kings 8:43. /Jeremiah 18:8. /Therefore, when we repent, we must completely turn from sinful ways.

/We will continue with Jonah chapter 4. /The title is, "The Vine." /First, Jonah's anger and complaint. /Verses 1-4. /Second, Jonah looks upon the city of Nineveh. /Verse 5. /Third, God teaches Jonah with a vine. /Verses 6-11.

/Read verse 1. /But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry.

/Jonah became greatly displeased and angry. /He became angry and did not like the fact that the people of Nineveh repented and were not destroyed. /The people of Nineveh were saved by God's grace. /Yet, Jonah was displeased.

/Jonah did not have faith. /True faith would have meant that Jonah would have been joyful that the people of Nineveh were not destroyed but saved. /Why was Jonah angry? /It was because he was self-centered. /Things did not go the way he wanted.

/We must think about God's will rather than our own. /We must think about lifting God up instead of lifting ourselves up. /We must make it our priority for God's will to be uplifted, even if we do not agree with it. /John 3:30.

/John the Baptist lifted Jesus up. /John put God's work at the center of his life. /Jonah had many abilities. All the people of Nineveh repented when he called out to them. /He had faith. /However, he did not have virtue.

/He did not have love. /He lacked character. /Luke 6:27. /James 2:8. /Romans 13:8. /We

must have both faith and virtue. /Our spiritual gifts are important, but we must have love.

/We must remember God's great love. /We must be happy for others. /We must be happy for the church. /We must be happy for the believer next to us.

/Verse 2. /He prayed to the LORD, "O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

/Jonah prayed a wrong prayer. /Jonah wanted the people of Nineveh to be destroyed. /This was very wrong. /This was different from God's will. /Our God is a gracious and compassionate God.

/God is slow to anger and abounding in love. /Jonah correctly knew who God was. /Jonah liked receiving God's great love for himself, but he did not like other people receiving God's love and compassion. /Jonah was selfish. /True faith meant that Jonah would have been pleased that the people of Nineveh were not destroyed.

/Verse 3. /Now, O LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

/This was Jonah's wrongful prayer. /Jonah resented and complained to God, and he wanted to die. /Jonah was wrong for asking to die because things didn't go his way. /God is not God who kills, but God who saves.

/Jonah became the master of his own life. /Suicide is murder. /Our lives are not our own, but are God's. /1 Corinthians 6:19, 20.

/Verse 4. /But the LORD replied, "Have you any right to be angry?"

/Jonah's anger was not acceptable before God. /Jonah complained about God's work.

/Verse 5. /Jonah went out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city.

/Jonah built a shelter outside the city, and he sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. /Why did Jonah built a shelter and sit outside the city? /A part of him thought that Nineveh would be destroyed in forty days, /and a part of him thought that the city wouldn't be destroyed because God is gracious and compassionate.

/However, a part of him wanted Nineveh to be destroyed. /This was wicked. /Even if they were enemies, it was wrong for Jonah to want them to be destroyed. /Ezekiel 25:3. /Matthew 5:44.

/We must pray that our enemies do well. /Jonah was wrong in sitting at a place east of the city. /It was wrong for him to sit there. /We believers must go forward when we must.

/We must sit when we must sit. /We must not go places where we must not go.

/Verse 6. /Then the LORD God provided a vine and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the vine.

/God provided Jonah with a vine. /A vine is called “qiquaion.” /“Qiquaion.” /This is a plant similar to castor-oil plant or castor beans. /Its leaves are relatively big and wide. /It also grows fast.

/Thus, Jonah sat in its shade and enjoyed the shade. /He was very happy. /However, Jonah did not give thanks for God’s grace. /Jonah did not truly thank God for the vine.

/Jonah did not give thanks for God’s grace for him, /and he complained about God’s grace for the people of Nineveh. /We must always be thankful for God’s grace. /God gives us rest today.

/God comforts us. /He gives us families, /jobs, /health, /possessions, /husbands, wives, and children. /Sometimes we depend on such things. /We receive comfort from these things.

/However, the things of the world cannot give us eternal and true comfort and rest. /There is no perfect happiness in the world. /The vine shows that we can be temporarily comforted while we are in the world.

/That also comes from God. /However, the things of the world cannot give us true rest or life. /God alone can give us life, rest, and true peace.

/Verses 7-8. /But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the vine so that it withered. When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

/Then a worm came and chewed the vine. /Then a scorching east wind blew. /Jonah became very faint. /Jonah then said he wanted to die. /Jonah left his faith.

/The thought of death is the devil’s temptation. /In these times, we must repent and stand upright. /God wanted to train Jonah here. /God wanted to teach Jonah through the vine.

/When believers say they want to live or die, it is not faith. /It is wrong for us to want to live for thousands of years on this earth because things are going well. /Also, it is wrong for us to want to die because things are difficult. /We must live well until the day God calls us.

/We must live for the Lord, /and we must die for the Lord. Romans 14:7 /Here, the vine that Jonah relied on withered. /In this way, the shade of our husbands, wives, and children will one day be no more.

/There are times when money and power also wither away. /We can lose our health. /In such times, we must not be discouraged or complain.

/Job said, "The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." /We must believe in God's sovereignty and give thanks. /We must persevere and look upon God no matter how great our hardships may be. /It is not faith when we complain or resent.

/Verse 9. /But God said to Jonah, "Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?" "I do," he said. "I am angry enough to die."

/God rebuked Jonah. /God said, "Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?" /However, Jonah argued back to God. /He said, "I am angry enough to die." /Jonah had a very strong personality.

/He had a big ego even before God. /We must let go of our stubbornness and ego. /We must do as God tells us.

/We must be gentle and humble. /"I will die if God allows me to die." /"I will live if God allows me to live." /In this way, we must leave everything before God. /Then we must live with thanksgiving and joy.

/Verses 10-11. /But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?"

/God taught Jonah with a vine. /There were many people in Nineveh. /There are also many livestock. /Jonah considered the vine more important than the people of Nineveh. /Jonah was extremely self-centered.

/We must broaden our hearts and minds. /We must put God at the center even if we may not agree with some things. /We must love our enemies. /We must work hard to save lives.

/God said that there were more than a hundred and twenty-thousand people who could not tell their right hand from their left. /This number refers to children. /The children were subject to destruction because of the sins of adults. /God was not happy with this.

/Jesus was pleased with little children. /Matthew 18:1-6. /It also says here that there were many cattle. /God considers livestock important as well. /Still, animals do not have character.

/In Psalm 84, it says God gives swallows a place in the temple to keep their young. /2

Peter 3:9. /Life is more important than materials. /We must think about God's will rather than our own. /There are many dying souls around us.

/There are so many people in this world who do not know the gospel. /Jonah was a prophet of the Old Testament times. /He went and preached the gospel in foreign lands. /However, he did it reluctantly.

/Then when the people of Nineveh repented and returned, he was displeased. /We must lead the wicked to repent and return. /We must preach the gospel to everyone in this world.

/We must become Jesus' witnesses to the ends of the earth as Jesus commanded us. /We must preach in places nearby and in places far off. /We must be faithful to saving lives.

/When we lead many people to the gospel, we will shine like stars in the sky. /Daniel 12:3.

/Here we will conclude the lecture on the book of Jonah. /Thank you.