

When God Provided A Worm

Scripture: Jonah 4:6-8 NIV

Introduction

It is in the midst of our comfort, when we lack compassion, and are insensitive to the needs of others, that God has to provide a worm in our life. For God always seeks to remove the obstacles and barriers that impede our relationship to Him and hinder us from ministering to the needs of others.

I. God provided a vine

3 John 1:2 KJV Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

Jonah 4:6 NIV 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.

- A. God is the giver of good things
- B. We are not to be caught up in creature comforts
- C. We only hold our prosperity in trust

II. God provided a worm

Jonah 4:7 NIV But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the vine so that it withered.

Romans 14:23 KJV ...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

- A. Removing our dependence on ourselves and "things"
- B. Teaching us to trust in God in all things
- C. Faith is the absolute reliance and dependance on God
 - 1. All that He says
 - 2. All that He does

III. God provided a scorching wind

Jonah 4:8 NIV When the sun rose, God provide 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."

1 Peter 4:12-13 NIV Dear friends, Do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

- A. God sends adversity to drive us back to Him
- B. God will test our relationship with Him to strengthen it
- C. God sends adversity to cause us to seek and know his will