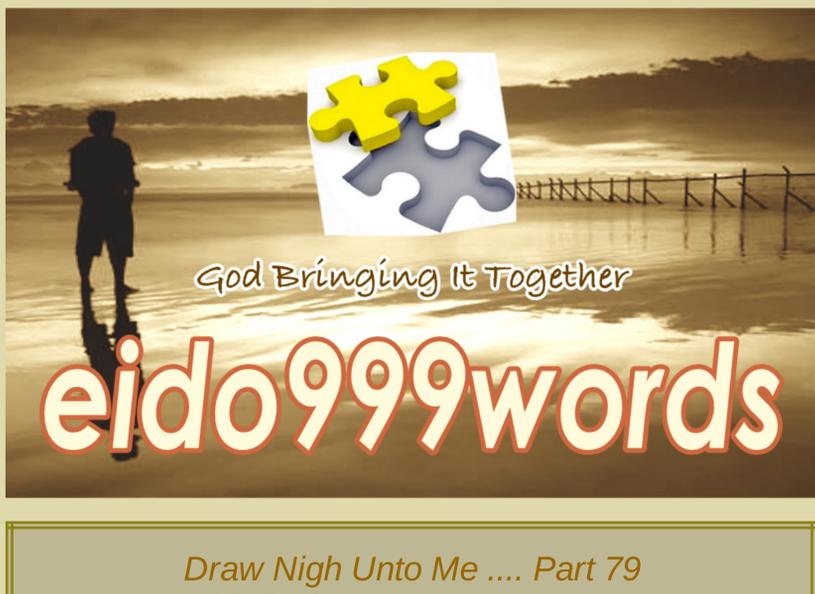


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Draw Nigh Unto Me Part 79

ISSUE: 081 - Published 23rd October 2018

Defaced - Week 71

God's Coming Spiritual Revolution - Part 18

So how do spiritual longings retard the growth of Spiritual Desire? (continued)

Jonah's Anger and the Lord's Compassion

- Jonah Chapter 4

(Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible [Concise] - Emphases Added)

Jonah 4:1-4 King James Version

1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.
2 And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

3 Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.

4 Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry?

Jonah repines at God's mercy to Nineveh, and is reproved. - Verses 1 - 4

(Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible [Concise])

What all the saints make matter of joy and praise, Jonah makes the subject of reflection upon God;

as if showing mercy were an imperfection of the Divine nature, which is the greatest glory of it.

It is to his sparing, pardoning mercy, we all owe it that we are out of hell.

He wishes for death: this was the language of folly, passion, and strong corruption.

There appeared in Jonah remains of a proud, uncharitable spirit; and that he neither expected nor desired the welfare of the Ninevites, but had only come to declare and witness their destruction.

He was not duly humbled for his own sins, and was not willing to trust the Lord with his credit and safety.

In this frame of mind, he overlooked the good of which he had been an instrument, and the glory of the Divine mercy.

We should often ask ourselves, Is it well to say thus, to do thus?

Can I justify it?

Do I well to be so soon angry, so often angry, so long angry, and to give others ill language in my anger?

Do I well to be angry at the mercy of God to repenting sinners?

That was Jonah's crime.

Do we do well to be angry at that which is for the glory of God, and the advancement of his kingdom?

Let the conversion of sinners, which is the joy of heaven, be our joy, and never our grief.

Jonah 4:5-11 King James Version

5 So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city.

6 And the LORD God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd.

7 But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered.

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.

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.

10 Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night:

11 And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?

He is taught by the withering of a gourd, that he did wrong. - Verses 5 - 11

(Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible [Concise])

Jonah went out of the city, yet remained near at hand, as if he expected and desired its overthrow.

Those who have fretful, uneasy spirits, often make troubles for themselves, that they may still have something to complain of.

See how tender God is of his people in their afflictions, even though they are foolish and froward.

[Added: froward 'to be stubbornly contrary and disobedient; obstinate']

A thing small in itself, yet coming seasonably, may be a valuable blessing.

A gourd in the right place may do us more service than a cedar.

[Definition added: Gourd - noun 1. a fleshy, typically large fruit with a hard skin, some varieties of which are edible. 2. a climbing or trailing plant which bears gourds.]

The least creatures may be great plagues, or great comforts, as God is pleased to make them.

Persons of strong passions are apt to be cast down with any trifle that crosses them, or to be lifted up with a trifle that pleases them.

See what our creature-comforts are, and what we may expect them to be; they are withering things.

A small worm at the root destroys a large gourd: our gourds wither, and we know not what is the cause.

Perhaps creature-comforts are continued to us, but are made bitter; the creature is continued, but the comfort is gone.

God prepared a wind to make Jonah feel the want of the gourd.

It is just that those who love to complain, should never be left without something to complain of.

When afflicting providences take away relations, possessions, and enjoyments, we must not be angry at God.

What should especially silence discontent, is, that when our gourd is gone, our God is not gone.

Sin and death are very dreadful, yet Jonah, in his heat, makes light of both.

One soul is of more value than the whole world; surely then one soul is of more value than many gourds: we should have more concern for our own and others' precious souls, than for the riches and enjoyments of this world.

It is a great encouragement to hope we shall find mercy with the Lord, that he is ready to show mercy.

And murmurers shall be made to understand, that how willing soever they are to keep the Divine grace to themselves and those of their own way, there is one Lord over all, who is rich in mercy to all that call upon him.

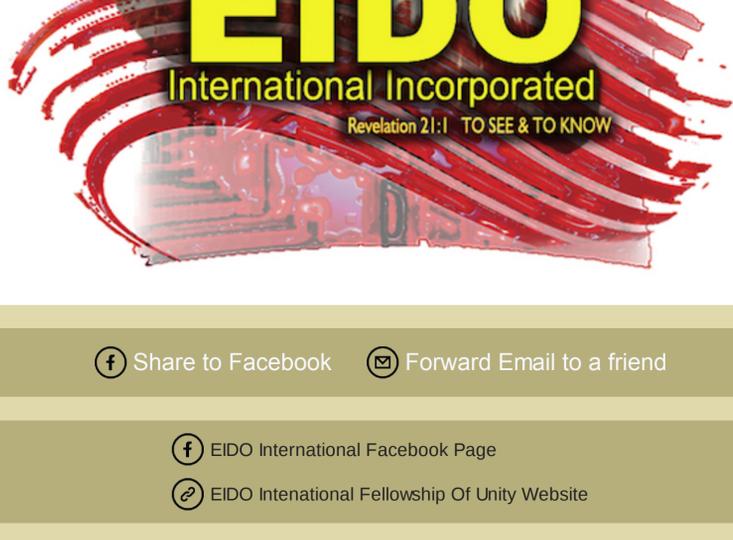
Do we wonder at the forbearance of God towards his perverse servant?

**Let us study our own hearts and ways;
 let us not forget our own ingratitude and obstinacy;
 and let us be astonished at God's patience towards us.**

Love,

Mwesigwa

[Defaced - Week 72 follows next week]



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