

MFWM – South West Area Conference

28-30 September 2018: Ammerdown Centre

Session 2 ‘Mission in Nineveh’

The book of Jonah: Is it true? (Mtt12.39f 2 Kings 14.25)

(i) God’s Mission

The ‘big God’ (1.2, 1.4, 1.12, 1.17, 3.1, 3.5, 4.1)

who takes initiatives (1.1, 1.4, 1.17, 2.10, 3.10, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8)

(ii) Mission refused (ch1) and accepted (ch3) - Acts 10

down (1.3, 1.5, 1.7, 1.15, 2.6) and up (1.2, 2.10, 3.1, 3.6) - conversions?

(iii) In a bad place

Nineveh (Nahum 1.1-6) - ‘fish city’ - Sheol

(iv) Prayers ‘Thanksgiving and Lament’ (Psalms 23, 18, 30, 42, 69, 120, 139, 142)

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU ARE IN A BAD PLACE?

(v) Unanswered questions (Lk15.28, Lk 19, 41f)

Reflection: Psalm 139 & StF 416

Session 3 ‘Mission in Babylon’

Rise and fall of Babylon - (Isaiah 39. 5f, Jeremiah 39,1 & 5-9, Dan 5)

(i) In Exile

Despair? (Ps 137), Settle down (Jer 29, 4-8) - conform or resist?

(ii) Other Babylons

Rome (Rev 18). The Roman Church (Luther 1520). Britain today

(iii) Features of Babylon

Money, violence, past glory, power and centralization, consumerism and cheap grace

ARE WE TODAY LIVING IN BABYLON? IF SO WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE?

(iv) Mission responses?

Fewer temples, the dispersed church (‘go’ not ‘come’ Matt 28),
a living hope through citizenship and re-imaging the Bible (1 Peter 2).

Session 4 'Mission in Britain'

CULTURE

A paradigm shift' (Martin Conway) 'The Suicide of the West' (Koch & Smith)

- (i) economic crash 2008 - 'loss of confidence'
- (ii) The rise of populism 'a simple solution to complex problems'
- (iii) Post-truth

CHURCH

Numerical decline in the West
(but growth amongst the poor in less secular pre-modern cultures)

Our mission as 'truth speakers & doers' (Mk12.29-31)
'heart' (testimony), 'soul' (integrity), 'mind' (theology) & 'strength' (activity)

YOUR STORY? Relate it to Bible text

Reflection: Not Romans 13 but Revelation 13

Session 5 'Mission in Ephesus'

The city. Mission to Ephesus (Acts 18 & 19) troubles (Acts 20.25-35) & Rev.2.1-7)

BIG THEMES

- (i) Prayer (1.18, 3.14-20, 6.18-20)
- (ii) Blessing (BERAK = Blessing BERAH = Create BERITH = Covenant)
- (iii) The Plan OIKOS = house i.e household OIKONOMIA (1.10,3.9) = administration
OIKEIOI (2.19) = household members PAROIKOI (2.19) = strangers
OIKODOMEO (2.20, 2.21, 4.12, 4.16) = to build
- (iv) The Fulness PLEROMA (1.23) = fullness PLEROO (1.10, 1.23, 3.19, 4.13, 5.18) = fill

WHERE IS THE FULNESS, THE PLAN, THE BLESSING AND PRAYER IN YOUR LIFE?

Reflection: The riches of his grace (1.7, 1.18, 2.4, 2.7, 3.8, 3.18) & StF 357