

Heavy Duty

Preparation for Sunday, April 14, 2013 Nahum: Message of Judgment

Monday - Tuesday

1. Judgment and Mercy – Read Nahum 1:7-9,12-13

- What is the purpose of receiving a warning?
- What is your typical reaction after receiving a warning from a police officer for driving too fast?
- Why do you think warnings are beneficial?
- How long does it usually take for you to return to a destructive behavior after receiving a warning from the Holy Spirit?
- Do you think that Nineveh forgot the words and remorse they felt after hearing Jonah's prophecy?
- What is the tone of verse 7? Do you feel assured or scared?
- Why do you think God cares for those who take refuge in him?
- Compare the tone of verses 8-9 to verse 7. Do you feel comforted when you read verses 8-9?
- How much of Nineveh will be left, according to verse 8?
- Is it fair to say that the more significant the event, the more warning is required? If so, does that help you understand why God gave the people in Noah's day a 120-year "heads up," and the people of Nineveh 150 years?
- Why give a warning at all when you quit your job? Why not just leave?
- What does it say about God's character that He gave a warning before He executed judgment?

Wednesday - Thursday

2. God Judges Evil Nations – Read Nahum 2:8-13

- God, through Nahum, compared Nineveh to "a pool of water" in verse 8. What do you think that means? What do you associate with a pool of water?
- According to the last part of verse 8, who comes to the aid of Nineveh?
- Verse 9 describes Nineveh's wealth. Nineveh seems to have plenty of financial resources. It stands to reason that they probably could afford the best military. What does this tell you about God's ability to overcome evil?
- How do you feel as you read the words of verse 10? What words describe how the people of Nineveh reacted to the destruction?
- What warning does God give in verse 13?
- How confident would you feel to go up in a fight against God?
- What does the message "I am against you" mean?
- How does it feel when someone you are close to seems to be against you?
- When you encounter a coworker who is working against you, how do you react?
- What can you do when God is against you?
- At what point do you think that Ninevites realized that they couldn't fight against God?
- Do you ever feel like you are trying to work against God? How successful do you feel?

Friday - Saturday

3. God Judges Sinful Leaders – Read Nahum 3:18-19

- What was Nahum telling the King of Assyria when he told him that his shepherds slumbered and his officers slept?
- How do you think the king felt to know that his people were scattered across the land?
- Did Nahum tell the king if there was any remedy for his wounds?
- How did Nahum say the people would react when they heard the news about the kingdom?
- Do you believe that God can bring ruin to any nation that is ruled by evil and cruelty? How?
- How does the dramatic contrast between Nineveh's leaders and Christ as our Shepherd encourage you?
- How will you help your children understand that when they make Jesus their leader, He will never let them down?
- Do you have that confidence yourself?
- What does the fate of Nineveh teach you about the seriousness with which God takes sin?
- Is there ever a time, regardless of circumstance, that God doesn't love you? Does this mean you will never have to face the consequences of your sin?

Additional Reading for this Week:

1. 7th Century Prophets
2. Nahum – Getting His Message Across
3. Nahum In His Historical Setting