



“Jonah and the great fish occupy only 3 of 48 verses in the book. Men have been looking so hard at the great fish that they fail to see the great God.”

JONAH'S GREAT GOD

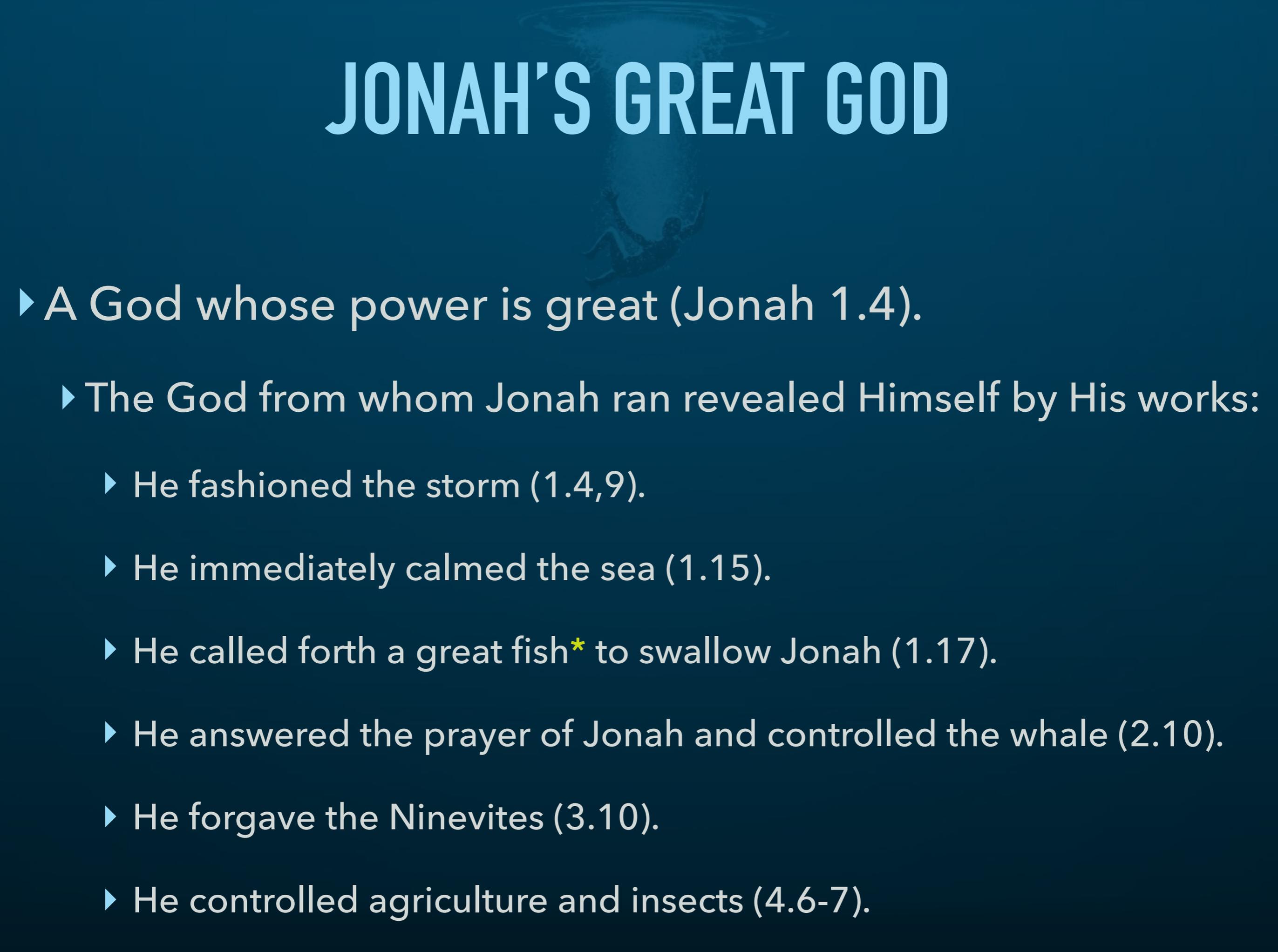
- ▶ A God whose presence is great (Jonah 1.1-4).
 - ▶ It seems unlikely that Jonah viewed God as one of the polytheistic *territorial gods* (2 Kings 14.25).
 - ▶ As a Hebrew, Jonah properly understood God (Jonah 1.9).
 - ▶ He would have known the words of David – Psalm 139.7-10
 - ▶ He was not fleeing from the sight of God; he was rebelliously fleeing from the responsibility God had placed before him.

JONAH'S GREAT GOD



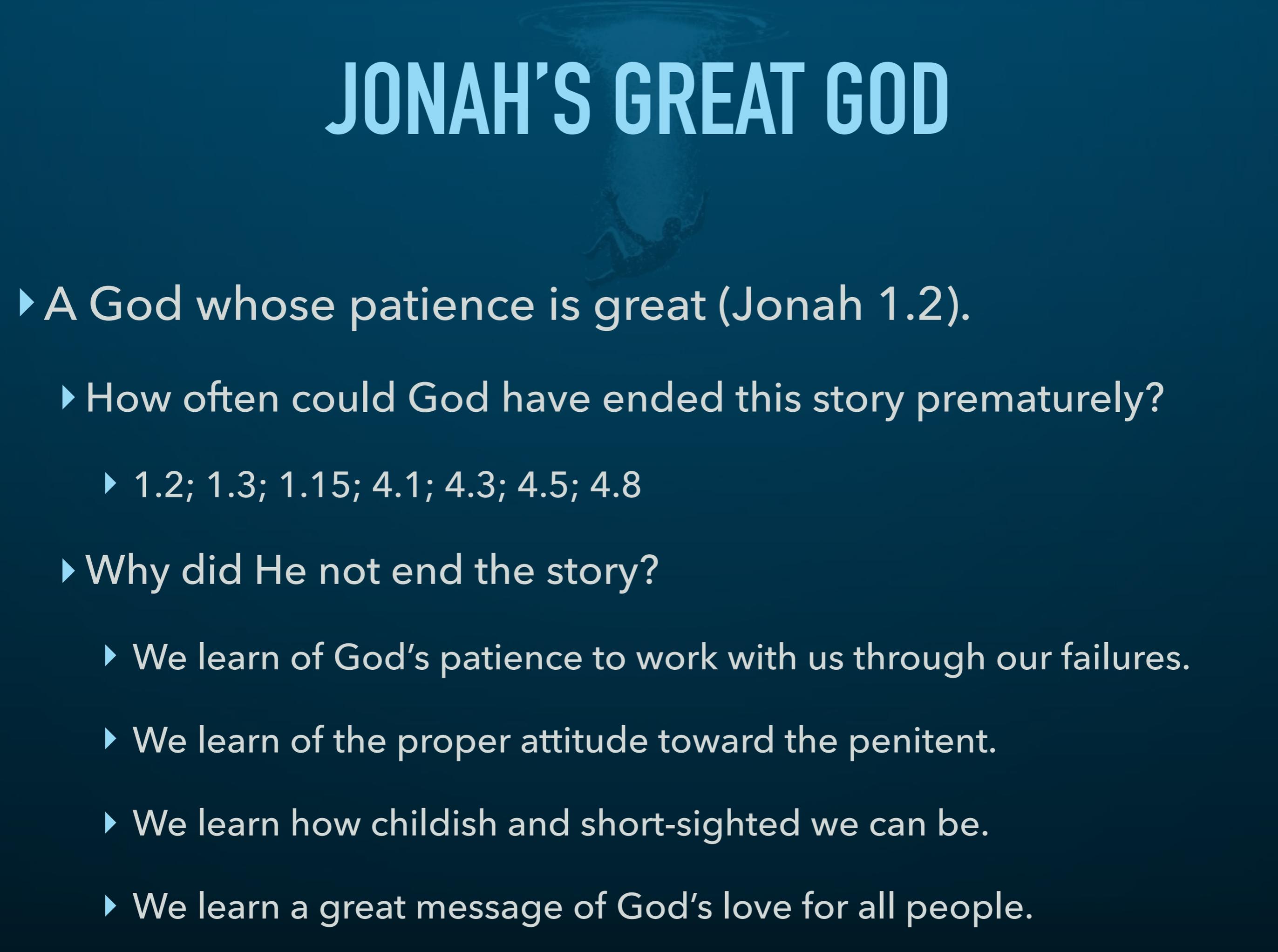
- ▶ A God whose compassion is great (Jonah 1.2).
 - ▶ The only thing objectionable in God's calls to Jonah seems to be the only thing specified – Nineveh.
 - ▶ Nineveh was the capital of Assyria (2 Kings 19.36).
 - ▶ Assyria was the nation that would soon (~40 years) overrun Israel.
 - ▶ Assyria had a reputation as a bloodthirsty, savage, conquering nation (2 Kings 18.31-35).
 - ▶ They were known to impale enemies and mock their captives, putting bridles in their mouths and hooks in their noses as they were led away.

JONAH'S GREAT GOD



- ▶ A God whose power is great (Jonah 1.4).
 - ▶ The God from whom Jonah ran revealed Himself by His works:
 - ▶ He fashioned the storm (1.4,9).
 - ▶ He immediately calmed the sea (1.15).
 - ▶ He called forth a great fish* to swallow Jonah (1.17).
 - ▶ He answered the prayer of Jonah and controlled the whale (2.10).
 - ▶ He forgave the Ninevites (3.10).
 - ▶ He controlled agriculture and insects (4.6-7).

JONAH'S GREAT GOD



- ▶ A God whose patience is great (Jonah 1.2).
 - ▶ How often could God have ended this story prematurely?
 - ▶ 1.2; 1.3; 1.15; 4.1; 4.3; 4.5; 4.8
 - ▶ Why did He not end the story?
 - ▶ We learn of God's patience to work with us through our failures.
 - ▶ We learn of the proper attitude toward the penitent.
 - ▶ We learn how childish and short-sighted we can be.
 - ▶ We learn a great message of God's love for all people.