

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

An oyster is an interesting creature. As the tides roll over it, the oyster opens its shell, so that the cool water will refresh its cramped body and bring it the food it needs. But when the shell opens, there is great danger. The body of the oyster is like jelly. The hungry fish which swarm around it are as fond of oysters as are many people. However, the oyster can neither see, hear, smell, nor taste. It can only feel. Consequently, it doesn't realize it's in danger until it feels it. Therefore, it needs a friend to protect it.

This is where a small variety of red, tiny crabs come in. This tiny crab is an oyster's best friend. When the shells are open, the crab slips in. Consequently, when a fish comes along to nibble at the oyster, the crab moves; the oyster closes its shell and is safe.

Psalm 10:16-18 The Lord is King forever and ever; Nations have perished from His land. 17 O Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will strengthen their heart, You will incline Your ear 18 To vindicate the orphan and the oppressed,.

God wants those who are strong and have resource to help those who have none. Repeatedly in Scripture we see God giving very direct instructions to help and protect the poor and the outcast. And these passages clearly include those outside our local communities. Jonah was sent to a godless enemy nation far away with the instruction to preach a message of repentance to them. Why? Because God felt great compassion for them in their lost condition. We have a mandate as Christians to assist all who are oppressed or lost in sin, nationally or internationally. And that is not political imperialism or Christian fundamentalism; it is the Gospel of Christ.