

Afflictions, Blessings in Disguise: The Oyster

~Other Speakers G-L: Sermon Illustrations II:

OBSERVATION Are there people, or things, that get under your skin? If so, consider this poem about an oyster.

THE OYSTER There once was an oyster whose story I tell, who found that sand had got under his shell; just one little grain, but it gave him much pain, for oysters have feelings although they're so plain. Now, did he berate the working of Fate which had led him to such a deplorable state? Did he turn to the Government, or blame other oysters? No; as he lay on the shelf, he said to himself, "If I cannot remove it, I'll try to improve it." So the years rolled by as the years always do, and he came to his ultimate destiny -- stew. And this small grain of sand which had bothered him so, had become a beautiful pearl, all richly aglow. Now this tale has a moral -- for isn't it grand what an oyster can do with a grain of sand -- And what splendid results may occur if we begin to work on problems that get under our skin! **HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO OUR LIVES?** We all have problems that get under our skin. The usual approach to problems is to complain, criticize, and point fingers. Those are negative approaches, with the problem being in control, and you reacting to it. The oyster chose a positive approach. He assumed control of the problem, and steadily applied himself toward transforming his situation into something beautiful. The same strategy will work for you. Remember one truth -- what you fail to master in your life will eventually master you. So decide now to avoid being mastered. Seek the help you need from godly sources to develop a positive approach to issues in your life. Then steadily work at transforming your situation into something beautiful. Finally, don't be afraid to ask for help. There is one Source for assistance that is superior to all others. Seek God's help, and follow through with action. If you do, the results will be far more beautiful than a pearl. "My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." \reference{Psalm 121:2}{Psalms 121:2}