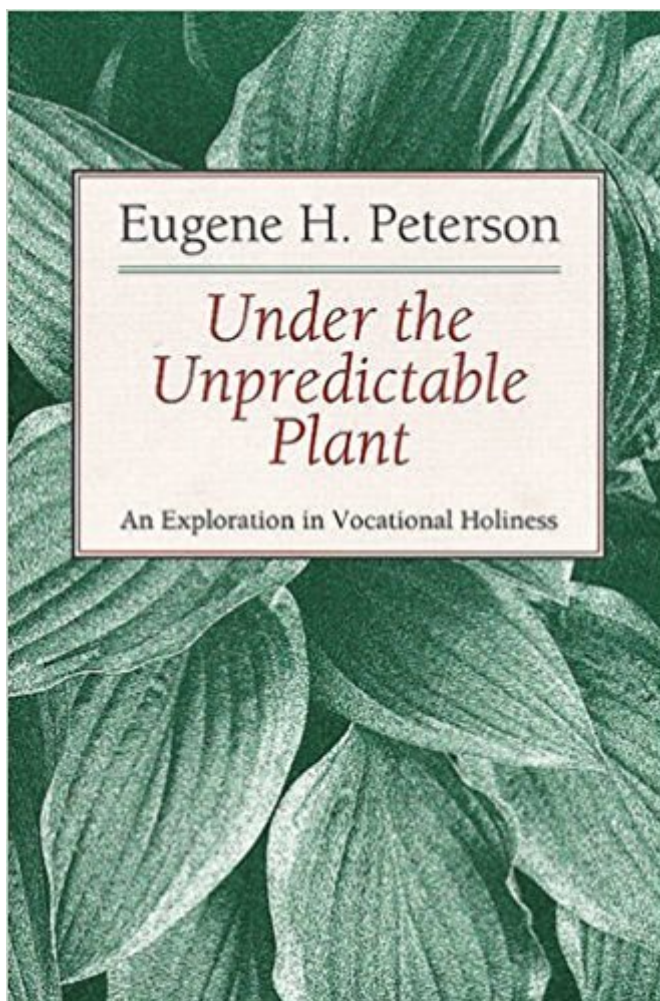


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# Under The Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration In Vocational Holiness



## Synopsis

In this book Peterson clarifies the pastoral vocation by turning to the book of Jonah, in which he finds a captivating, subversive story that can help pastors recover their vocational holiness. Peterson probes the spiritual dimensions of the pastoral calling and seeks to reclaim the ground taken over by those who are trying to enlist pastors in religious careers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Eugene H. Peterson is an American-born clergyman, scholar, author, and poet. He has written over thirty books, including Gold Medallion Book Award winner *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language* (Navpress Publishing Group, 2002), an idiomatic translation of the original languages of the Bible.

You will not find a better character study on Jonah, or better exegetical and pastoral commentary on the book of Jonah than this book, *Under the Unpredictable Plant*. Eugene Peterson gives you the fruit of his soul in this book, and you will be nourished and helped to nourish others by it as well. I have bought this book for a friend, but I have read this several times and have used it in my own teaching through Jonah at my church.

The constant push on pastors from parishioners, from denominations and from their own egos is to build a growing church. Though much effort is made to say that numbers are not what is most

important, the current management and leadership of the vast majority of churches indicates otherwise. Peterson challenges pastors to be forthright in repenting of their own idolatry and to be willing to step into the "mess" of ministry to help people become partners with God's work in them and in their church family. I can hardly think of a more important and helpful challenge for pastoral leaders today.

Great read - very transformative for ministry.

Great book. I keep coming back to it to be refreshed. It also provided great background material to use for our VBS program on Jonah (we used the VeggieTales Jonah movie in combination). I have it both on Kindle and paperback at this point (the latter from my time at school, and the first for portable use later). Peterson has become one of my favorite authors.

This is the most relevant book on the nature of pastoral ministry I have ever read. It will penetrate your heart and create a visceral reaction, whether good or bad will depend on whether or not you really want to be a pastor.

Peterson writes to pastors providing them spiritual direction and guidance. He addresses vocational holiness and uses the story of Jonah as an analogy for pastoral leadership in a delightful, humble way. He draws from Dostoevsky's story of the Brothers Karamazov to reflect his growing understanding of God's hidden passion which lives within each individual. Finally, Peterson discusses the issue of pride and how it often hides behind virtue. Peterson encourages a quiet, unscheduled life that makes time for God. This is an impactful book.

Peterson once again captures the struggle between becoming a professional pastor and being a spiritual director. His self exposure gracefully confronts those who would dare to listen. A must read for those entering the pastoral journey or for those who have become cynical and tired of the program's we have been convinced are the keys to the Kingdom.

This book opens the eyes of many of us in ministry to see how easy it is for us to chase after our own dreams and build our own "career". It keeps us to the ground in informing us that we are mere tools of God and have nothing to be proud of but serve God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

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