

JONAH

Study 4: The God of Great Compassion (Jonah 4)

READ Jonah 4 and LISTEN to Daris' [sermon](#).

After Jonah preaches the message of God to the people of Nineveh, the whole city repented. But instead of Jonah praising God for His act of kindness, he becomes angry with God. Jonah's anger stemmed from the fact that he did not like that God is gracious and willing to forgive Israel's enemies who repent and turn to the Lord. Jonah's anger and bitterness was exposed by God through the provision of a simple plant that God gives to Jonah for shade on a hot day. But when God ordains the plant to die the next day, Jonah becomes angry and reveals his selfishness. God uses this event to show Jonah that if he cared so much for a fleeting plant, how much more should God pity the souls of those who would be lost in their sins for all eternity.

Main lesson: God's people are to reflect the heart of God who is compassionate and willing to save undeserving sinners, remembering that we too were undeserving sinners saved by grace.

Questions:

1. According to Vs 1-2, what has displeased Jonah so much? And what would you say is the root of his anger?
2. A. In light of Luke 15:11-32, what connections can we make between the anger of the older son in Jesus's parable and Jonah's anger?

B. Was it unfair on the part of the father to treat his returned son in such a glorious and celebratory manner? Why or why not?
3. How has the Lord "failed" to meet Jonah's expectations?

4. People might say "God is a God of Grace anyway, so It doesn't matter if I sin here and there." Explain why this is folly and how the story of Jonah can help us understand why this is?
5. Just like Jonah, are there areas in your life where you don't accept certain aspects of God's character or perhaps things in the bible that you struggle to come to terms with?
6. A. How do we respond when God takes away things from our lives which He once blessed us with?

B. Evaluate the priorities in your life that can sometimes replace the position of God in our hearts. Are there idols that subtly rob of us our joy in the Lord, even if it isn't inherently sinful?
7. In Matthew 12:39-41, Jesus speaks to the Pharisees and refers to Himself as "the greater than Jonah". What message was Jesus giving to the Pharisees when he said this?
8. How has this study helped you to see God's revealed character, our own limitations, and our need to look to Christ who represents us before the Father?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: the God who is gracious and compassionate to save undeserving sinners

Thank: God for freely giving you His unmerited Grace when He owed this to no one

Pray: that you might share the heart of God's compassion for those lost in their sins