

RESPONDING TO GOD

Jonah – Part 4

ON TV/OUTLINE: “1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah, son of Amittai: 2 ‘Go to the great city of Nineveh and **preach against it**, because its **wickedness** has come up before me.’ 3 But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to **flee from the Lord**.” Jonah 1:1-3

ON TV/OUTLINE: “But the **Lord provided** a great fish to swallow Jonah and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.” Jonah 1:17

ON TV/OUTLINE: “And the Lord commanded the fish, and it **vomited** Jonah onto dry land.” Jonah 2:10

ON TV/OUTLINE: “The word of the Lord came to Jonah a **second time**.” Jonah 3:1

ON TV/OUTLINE: “...Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned.” Jonah 3:4b

ON TV/OUTLINE: “8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone **call urgently on God**. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. 9 **Who knows?** God may yet relent and **with compassion** turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.” Jonah 3:8-9

ON TV/OUTLINE: “But Jonah was **greatly displeased** and became angry.” Jonah 4:1

ON TV: The word “angry” = **to burn with fire**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “2 He prayed to the Lord...”

ON TV: There’s a little bit of Jonah **in all of us**.

ON TV: Jesus Christ came to do more than just rescue us from our pain. He came to **give us a new life** in and with Him.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “2...O Lord, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. 3 Now, O Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.” Jonah 4:2-3

ON TV: God thank you for being patient with me, **but I will never** be patient with Nineveh. God, thank you for giving me a second chance, **but I will never, ever, ever** give Nineveh a second chance.

ON TV: If we don’t forgive completely, we will **retreat to resentment**, which leads to emotional bondage. As Christ Followers we have been **commanded to forgive**. The only way to release resentment is to forgive. Forgiveness brings **freedom to us and to our relationships**.

ON TV: “Father, **forgive them** for they don’t know what they are doing.” Luke 23:34

ON TV: “14 For **if you forgive other people** when they sin against you, **your heavenly Father will also forgive you**. 15 But if you **do not forgive others** their sins, **your Father will not forgive your sins**.” Matthew 6:14-15

ON TV: Who do **YOU** need to forgive?

ON TV: Feelings don’t bring forgiveness. **Christ’s power in us** fuels our forgiveness, not feelings.

ON TV: “**We demolish arguments and every pretension** that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and **we take captive every thought** to make it obedient to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:5

ON TV: “**It is for freedom that Christ has set us free**. Stand firm, then, and **do not let yourselves** be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “4 But the Lord replied, ‘Have you any right to be angry?’ 5 Jonah went out and sat down at a place east of the city...” Jonah 4:4-5

ON TV: This is Jonah’s struggle:

- How can **God love people** I hate?
- How can **He show grace** to people I can’t?
- How can **He forgive people** that I won’t?

ON TV/OUTLINE: “5 There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. 6 Then the Lord God **provided** a vine and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and **Jonah was very happy** about the vine.” Jonah 4:5-6

ON TV:

- **He wasn’t happy** when God called him to preach to the people of Nineveh.
- **He wasn’t happy** when the sailors called on God in Jonah 1.
- **He wasn’t happy** when the entire city of Nineveh turned to God in repentance in Jonah 3.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “7 But at dawn the next day God **provided** a worm which chewed the vine so that it withered. 8 When the sun rose, God **provided** a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, ‘It would be better for me to die than to live.’” Jonah 4:7-8

ON TV: Are you **content**? Are you excited about where you are in your life right now?

ON TV: **God is still God** even when we are in the terrible, not so good days and the really bad days and all the seasons of our life.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “9 But God said to Jonah, ‘Do you have **any right to be angry** about the vine?’ ‘I do,’ he said. ‘I am angry enough to die.’” Jonah 4:9

ON TV: Jonah **believed** that life is **all about Jonah**.

ON TV: Like Jonah, we tend to script our lives to get God into **OUR** story. But what would happen if we stopped trying to squeeze God into **our story** and we instead surrender ourselves to **His story** to be used in any way He desires?

ON TV: Is your life all about **YOU**?

ON TV/OUTLINE: “10 But the Lord said, ‘You have been concerned about this vine, **but you did not tend it or make it grow**. It sprang up overnight and it died overnight. 11 But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city.’” Jonah 4:10-11

ON TV: So where is Nineveh? Nineveh is the place where you walk out of your front door, and you immediately lock eyes with **someone who doesn’t know Christ personally**.

ON TV/OUTLINE:

- First, we all need to die to our own **SELFISHNESS**.
- Second, we all need to die to our own **PRIDE**.
- Third, we all need to die to our right to be **OFFENDED** at God.

ON TV: Bottom Line: Often God’s correction in our lives means **He leaves us right where our decisions and bitterness have led us**.