

Jonah: The Power of Repentance – But I Won't Like It – Jonah 4:1-11 – July 6, 2025

As we close out Jonah we see the Prophet pulling away from his mission to pout

- It's Jonah's party and he'll cry if he wants to...you would cry too if it happened to you I get a little pouting if there is something to pout about, but why is Jonah so upset?

Jonah is mad that the Lord saved the Ninevites from destruction...he's all sorts of mad

Have you ever had your kid pout somewhere amazing...like an amusement park

Jonah hates the Ninevites so much that he is upset that they are recipients of God's grace

Big Idea - Don't throw yourself a pity party over God's grace

What do I mean, 'Don't throw a pity party over God's Grace' – Who would do such a thing?

- You need to remember just how much Jonah hated Nineveh – Ravaged his nation Ultimately this was selfishness on Jonah's part...it isn't what he wanted so he's upset Selfishness = Focus on personal gain...lack of consideration for needs & well-being of others Can we all admit that selfishness isn't great...Does selfishness have any place in Christianity

Today, through Jonah, I'm going to give us three things that selfishness creates

1. **Selfishness leads to: Anger where there should be joy (v1-4)**

4 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. - What is 'it'?

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

- This is what's made Jonah so angry and his anger has a direction...he's angry at the Lord² And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster."³ Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."

This is super dramatic...this is like a teenage tick-tock influencer dramatic

This why fled to Tarshish...I knew if I came here you would show them mercy – I want to die

- Jonah has replaced what should be joyful with anger towards the Lord
- Hard to get our heads wrapped around...why would Jonah be this upset over salvation

Hatred is a powerful motivator for a hardened heart

- Jonah hates the Ninevites and wants nothing more than to see them rot in hell
- When you hate a person or a group of people you are shutting off the wellspring of Joy Ultimately...hatred is rooted in selfishness...you don't want the best for another, but worst 2001 after 9/11 attacks I found myself at a church...wasn't a believer...prayed for terrorists It's harder to be joyful for the salvation of people who have hurt us...joyful we must be Is there a person of group of people that you have hatred in your heart towards? Repent

⁴ And the Lord said, "Do you do well to be angry?"

- This is a rhetorical question, but one you should ask yourself about your anger
- Do you do well to be angry? – Is your anger benefiting your life? Making it better? We live in a culture of driving people to anger for ratings and for sport | Left hates the Right Christians should have hatred for no one

"But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matt. 5:44)

2. **Selfishness leads to: Agony where there should be relief (v5-8)**

⁵ Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. ⁶ Now the Lord God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

This seems like a jerk move on the part of our Lord...gives him shade and then takes it away Is the Lord a jerk? Does he do things with a purpose? Is He teaching Jonah something?

- First of all...God gives the plant to show that He's still always with Jonah
- Even when we have a bad attitude – When our children have a bad attitude...provide? If our children continue to have a bad attitude are their consequences? Tank things away?
- God sends a worm to destroy the plant and take away Jonah's shade – **WORM** Then God has the wind and the sun beat down on Jonah...but why?

Jonah was exceedingly glad when Lord provided for his needs...upset salvation Nineveh

Selfishness led to agony instead of relief – He has his priorities all screwed up

God offers you 1 Million dollars or one more soul in Heaven...you take the million

- Buy a house...burns down – Car...breaks down – Friends borrow...don't pay back You end up more busted than you started and God just taught you a lesson Temporal things are fleeting and eternal things matter forever! You think by being selfish you are bringing exceeding joy...but it's agony in the long run

- We talk about theses all the time: Time – Talent – Treasure

What are you willing to sacrifice for one more person to hear the gospel?

Or are you storing it all up just so it can be taken by a worm...one day all worm food

3. **Selfishness leads to: Animosity where there should be compassion (v9-11)**

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ And the Lord said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

This is my favorite part of the story – 'Do you do well to be angry for the plant'

- 'Yes! I do well to be angry, angry enough to die' – Midol – Greatest biblical fit
- He has animosity where he should have compassion – The Ninevites were saved!
- Jonah is taking for granted his upbringing...he was raised in Israel...He knows the Lord God is giving Jonah perspective...Jonah has his feelings hurt by a plant...a plant!

¹¹ And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

God takes pity on 120k people + cattle...Not sure what to make of the cattle, but People!

And Jonah has no compassion for them what so ever...and he should

- 'They do not know their right hand from their left' – Pretty fundamental thing 'L'
- The Lord is saying, 'They are ignorant of all the things you've known your entire life' Here is a reality...we shouldn't be shocked when unsaved people do unsaved things We have a lot's animosity towards people who don't think and act like we do ...compassion What if I went to Japan and was screwing up all the customs and they just yelled at me It's because I don't know my right hand from my left when it comes to Japanese customs When it comes to the Gospel we have to stop creating an 'us vs them' mentality

- Jesus never got upset with unsaved people being unsaved...He wept for them
- He got angry at religious elitists who pride themselves on pious, unloving, behavior

We should love as Christ loved instead of lamenting like Jonah lamented

What Jonah should have Remembered:

- a. God is always right
- b. God desires everyone to repent
- c. We are all the same