



Jonah 4 – The Compassion of God.

ADAM LONG | Week of January 13th, 2019

SERMON OVERVIEW // Act Four of the Book of Jonah ends with the prophet's anger over God's compassion to the Ninevites. But God continually shows His compassion to Jonah as well.

SERMON TEXT // **Jonah 4:1-11** English Standard Version

The fourth chapter of Jonah may very well be one of the most frustrating chapters in the entire Bible. It is frustrating because we see Jonah being angry, wanting to die, because God lavished His compassion over the repentant Ninevites. But, now, God not only unveiled His compassion to the Ninevites – He also unveiled His compassion to Jonah.

I God unveiling His **compassion** for Jonah in the way **He listens to Jonah**: (vv.1-4)

Jonah records two separate prayers in his story – and both times Jonah is clear to note **God listened to him**. Sadly, Jonah prayed his best prayer from the worst place – the belly of the great fish and he prayed his worst prayer from the best place – in a city which just experienced an awakening. God unveils His **compassion** for the Ninevites by listening to their cries of repentance and in the same way listened to Jonah in his anger. God was seeking out the heart of His prophet by listening to the heart of his prayer.

II God unveiling His **compassion** for Jonah in the way **He comforts Jonah**: (vv.5-8)

Jonah selfishly hoped the Ninevites would perish. But in Jonah's selfishness – God still showed **compassion** as **He comforted him**. He comforted Him with shade over his head but also took the shade in order to grab his attention. Just as God had done within the great fish in the depths of the sea – God was using these specific circumstances to remind Jonah of what it was like to be lost: helpless, hopeless, and miserable.

III God unveils His **compassion** for Jonah in the way **He teaches Jonah**: (vv.9-11)

Despite all Jonah's anger and negativity God continues to unveil His compassion for both Jonah and anyone lost without His guiding hand by aiming to **teach** Jonah about the depths of His **compassion**. The story seems to end with an unanswered question. But it is clear the story the way it does is because God was not looking for an answer based on Jonah's understanding. He is making a statement about who He is as the Creator of all things.

Our God is a God of **compassion** – both toward the repentant sinner as well as the wayward saint. Our God **listens** when we pray, He **comforts** when we are in **need**, and He teaches us about His compassion by unveiling His compassion upon us.

REFLECT. || POINT. || MAKE.



Discussion Questions - The Compassion of God.

COMMUNITYGROUPS | Week of January 27th, 2019

Question 1

What was something you wrote down or a truth that resonated with you from listening to the sermon, looking at the overview, or even in reading this particular chapter in Jonah?

Question 2

Jonah, twice in this recorded autobiography, prays to the Lord. And both times he records that the Lord heard his prayer. Prayer is a gift and a discipline for the believer. ***Q: What do you tend to pray for the most? What would you say you are most reluctant to pray for, and why?***

Question 3

God never deserted Jonah, even in Jonah's disobedience. In fact, God went out of His way to provide Jonah comfort in his anger. ***Q: What evidences of this promise-keeping care of God have you personally seen over your life? What comfort is it for your future? Share an experience of God's comfort in your life with the group keeping the dynamics of the group.***

Question 4

Regardless of how Jonah was acting or what attitude he was exhibiting - God still found a way to teach Jonah about His great love and compassion for all of His people. ***Q: What is something the Lord has been teaching you presently? This could come out of a season of running away from the Lord or a season of running to the Lord. Share something with the group that God has been teaching you lately and celebrate that together.***

Prayer Point:

For Jonah, the Ninevites were the enemy to his home country and saw them as a threat. Part of his reasoning for not wanting to see the Ninevites repent was his hope God would destroy the Assyrians and, in turn, protect his people. If we take an honest look at our lives - there may be people from our past or in our present that if they were to come to know the Lord we may be more frustrated than thankful.

Over the next week pray specifically for your heart to be moved towards the compassion God shows His creation as well as specifically for this person to come to know the Lord through His boundless compassion.