

THE HEART OF GOD

Jonah: Part 4

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¹⁰ When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened.

¹ This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. ² So he complained to the Lord about it: “Didn’t I say before I left home that you would do this, Lord? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people. ³ Just kill me now, Lord! I’d rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen.”

⁴ The Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry about this?”

⁵ Then Jonah went out to the east side of the city and made a shelter to sit under as he waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ And the Lord God arranged for a leafy plant to grow there, and soon it spread its broad leaves over Jonah’s head, shading him from the sun. This eased his **discomfort**, and Jonah was very grateful for the plant.

⁷ But God also arranged for a worm! The next morning at dawn the worm ate through the stem of the plant so that it withered away. ⁸ And as the sun grew hot, God arranged for a scorching east wind to blow on Jonah. The sun beat down on his head until he grew faint and wished to die. “Death is certainly better than living like this!” he exclaimed.

⁹ Then God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry because the plant died?”

“Yes,” Jonah retorted, “even angry enough to die!”

¹⁰ Then the Lord said, “You feel sorry about the plant, though you did nothing to put it there. It came quickly and died quickly. ¹¹ But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness, not to mention all the animals. Shouldn’t I feel sorry for such a great city?”

Jonah 3:10–4:11 (NLT)

WE VALUE PEOPLE

“People matter to us because they matter to God. Therefore, we will do anything short of sin to connect people to Jesus and the church family.”

1. We prioritize **EVANGELISM**.

Because...

1) **HELL** is real.

“And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.”
(Matthew 25:46, NLT)

2) **THE CROSS** was a big deal.

"God forbid that I should boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world is crucified to me and I to the world!" (Galatians 6:14, NEB)

3) Christ **COMMANDS** it.

"...make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19, NLT)

4) Love **DEMANDS** it.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16, NIV)

2. We put the needs of the **LOST** ahead of the preferences of the **FOUND**.

"For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost." (Luke 19:10, NLT)

This truth influences our:

1) Teaching **TOPICS**.

"Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables." (Matthew 13:34, NLT)

2) **AMBIENCE**.

"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." (1 Corinthians 9:22, NIV)

"Do everything without complaining and arguing," (Philippians 2:14, NLT)

"Don't be selfish...Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself." (Philippians 2:3, The Living Bible)

3) **PROGRAMS**.

"Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick." (Matthew 14:14, NLT)

HOW YOU CAN PARTNER WITH OAK RIDGE TO REACH PEOPLE FOR CHRIST

1. **PRAY** Great Commission prayers.

"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf..." (1 Timothy 2:1, NLT)

“He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”” (Matthew 9:37–38, NLT)

“After they had prayed, the meeting place shook. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and bravely spoke God’s message.” (Acts 4:31, CEV)

“Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us. Pray that the Lord’s message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you.” (2 Thessalonians 3:1, NLT)

2. MODEL a Jesus the lost would want.

“...even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over by observing your pure and reverent lives.” (1 Peter 3:1–2, NLT)

3. SHARE your story.

“...Go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you.” So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him.” (Luke 8:39, NLT)

4. INVITE people to church.

“Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles he performs for people!” (Psalm 66:5, NLT)

5. SERVE on one of our teams.

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28, NLT)

6. GIVE GENEROUSLY.

“Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.” (Matthew 6:21, NLT)

LAST THOUGHT

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO KEEP FROM BECOMING JONAH?