

Having a Problem with God

Is God too forgiving?

Waiting for judgment

Vs. 5 – Jonah watches to see the city get destroyed

According to Craig Davis in Dating the Old Testament, “Nineveh was located on the east bank of the Tigris River, with hills east of the city. This would give Jonah a good vantage point to view the city, as well as an early view of any enemy army [that Jonah would have expected to fulfill the curse—Jonah 3:4], which would need to approach Nineveh from his side of the river.”

Rejecting the Father’s Heart

Jonah’s contradiction

Vs. 4 “Do you do well to be angry?” – Jonah is angry over the **salvation** of the Ninevites

Vs. 9 “Do you do well to be angry?” – Jonah is angry over the **destruction** of the plant

The lesson of the plant

Jonah is thankful for his own salvation and angry at the Ninevites salvation. This means he is deeply blind to his own pride and sin.

How do you focus on others’ sin and excuse your own?

Matthew 7:3 “³ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?”

Jonah’s opinion of God changes based on whether God is doing what he wants. This means he doesn’t really love God, he just loves what God can do for him.

Do you get angry at God when times are hard for you?

Seeing the Father’s Heart

Weeping over the city

Luke 19:41-42 “And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.”

The person of Jesus

What about the cattle?

Embracing the Father’s Heart

Examine yourself

“Do you do well to be angry?”

Confess your sin

How do we even have this story at all? Who brought it back to Israel?

See God’s grace in blessings and trials – the plant, the worm, the wind

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A1

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul, in life and in death— to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.

He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. How do you focus on others’ sin and excuse your own?
2. Do you get angry at God when times are hard for you?
3. How does God “appoint” the events of your life to make your heart like his?
4. Jesus weeps over a city at the end of his earthly ministry. What is God’s heart?