



Cruelty vs Cattle: God's Solution to the Great Problem

August 19 & 20, 2023

We have more to share. Text CONNECT to 888-644-4034

Doug McCoy

Sin is a major concern of The Faith. We know what it is. But do we know *why* it is? Do we know what makes sin sinful?


We apparently don't. If we did, we would regard sin very differently and reject it far more aggressively.

There are two books of the Old Testament that show us this *why*.


I. Nahum. Nahum is rarely read or preached. But it reveals a critical truth about why sin is sin.

Nahum 3:19 (NIV) 19 Nothing can heal you; your wound is fatal. All who hear the news about you clap their hands at your fall, for **who has not felt your endless cruelty?**

 Cruelty = _____. They are two terms for the same thing.

 Cruelty is _____ others to benefit yourself; using or abusing others; exploitation, enslavement, consumption, rejection, disposing; not valuing or treating others as they should be.

 It is the opposite of _____.

 It exists in many _____.

 It goes back a long time, and is highly _____.

Genesis 3:12 (NIV) 12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Genesis 4:8 (NIV) 8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Genesis 4:23-24 (NIV) 23 Lamech said to his wives,
"Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words.
I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me.
24 If Cain is avenged seven times,
then Lamech seventy-seven times."

Genesis 6:5 (NIV) 5 The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only **evil** all the time.

The Assyrians' problem was cruelty. The ancient world's problem was cruelty. Our problem is cruelty. It is the **Great Problem**.

II. Jonah. Jonah is well-known, but not well understood. It is not a fable about disobedience, but a revelation of God's character.

Jonah 4:11 (KJV) 11 And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand (120,000) persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?

 The Assyrians were cruel.

 The prophet was cruel.

 God was not cruel.

God was different from the Assyrians and all the other peoples of the earth. He was not cruel. He is not cruel. He solved this problem and all problems with love, not cruelty.

III. Us. Are we like God, or are we like the Assyrians? Are we cruel or loving?

Luke 23:34 (NIV) 34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

James 4:1-2 (NIV '84) 1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? **2** You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight.

1 Timothy 1:13 (NIV) 13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.

We have been shown _____ today. That forces a choice. Will we cave to cruelty? Or will we consider the cattle? Will we take God's solution or will we fall to the Great Problem?

Repent and Reorient: What cruelty is God calling you to stop today? What love is He calling you to show?

This Week's Bible Readings (Use the TCND App if you want to listen):

- Sat. Aug 19, Jer 29-30 Sun. Aug 20, Jer 31-32 Mon. Aug 21, Jer 33-34
- Tue. Aug 22, Jer 35-38 Wed. Aug 23, Jer 38-40 Thur Aug 24, Jer 41-43
- Fri. Aug 25, Jer 44-46 Sat. Aug 26 Jer 47-49 Sun. Aug 27, Jer 50

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