

# Destinations: Where Are You Going?

## Week 5: A Sad Ending

### Series:

- Week 1: Jonah, Nineveh, and God
- Week 2: Wrong Way
- Week 3: Change of Heart?
- Week 4: Let's Redo This
- Week 5: A Sad Ending

### Scripture:

Jonah 4

### Motivation (Why You Need to Know It):

*Here's where we are in the Story of Jonah's Rebellion and God's Redemption...*

God Says "Go"

**Jonah 1:1 (NLT)** The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: **2** "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are."

Jonah Says "No"

**Jonah 1:3 (NLT)** But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord.

Jonah Says "Uh Oh"

**Jonah 1:17 (NLT)** Now the Lord had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights.

Jonah Says "Okay"

**Jonah 2:1 (NLT)** Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from inside the fish. **10** Then the Lord ordered the fish to spit Jonah out onto the beach.

Nineveh Says "Yes"

**Jonah 3:10 (NLT)** 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.

## Information (What You Need to Know):

### *Steps to Quiet Rebellion...*

#### **Knowing About God Without Obeying Him**

**Jonah 4:1 (ESV)** 1But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. 2 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."

#### *Spiritual actions that Jonah demonstrated toward God –*

- He prayed (Jonah's problem was not religious activity, but practical obedience)
- He knew God's Character (gracious, merciful, patient, loving, forgiving)
- He knew God's Ways

#### **Hoping God's Plan Backfires**

**Jonah 4:4 (ESV)** And the Lord said, "Do you do well to be angry?" 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.

- Jonah is angry that God showed Nineveh mercy
- So, Jonah took a front row seat to hopefully watch Nineveh (and God's plan) fail

#### **Finding Satisfaction in Temporary Things**

**Jonah 4:6 (ESV)** 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."

- God exposed Jonah's heart condition
- Jonah took comfort in the shade of a large plant, but it's death caused him to despise life

## Caring About the Wrong Things

**Jonah 4:9 (ESV)** 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?"

- God was trying to uproot Jonah's misplaced affections
- Jonah cared about a plant more than he cared about people

## Application (What You Need To Do):

Through Jonah's rebellion, we learn more about God than we do about Jonah.

Jonah's reaction simply magnifies God's character.

What we have discovered is that God is interested in redeeming those far from Him.

**Psalm 86:5 (NLT)** O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help.

## Two Takeaways...

- God desires to redeem those far from Him
- God desires to use people to deliver that message