

# Jonah Part 5 HANDOUT

4/16/23

**Jonah 4:1-4** But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. 2 He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. 3 Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.” 4 But the Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

The ESV says that it “displeased Jonah exceedingly” - this means that it was **evil in his sight**

The work of God saving the Ninevites was evil in the eyes of Jonah - he became angry.

“...in their attitudes to the repentant Ninevites, God and Jonah are diametrically opposed.”

**Jonah 4:2** - This verse reveals to us that Jonah did pray to God prior to Chapter 2 when he was in the belly of the great fish.

Jonah basically tells God that he knows how He is - that when people repent of their sins that you will forgive them their sins because you are full of compassion.

- We see that bitterness is a powerful sin. It is the fermenting of unforgiveness and anger.

**Luke 9:54-55** When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?”  
55But Jesus turned and rebuked them.

The Spirit of Christ LONGS for people to repent that He might pour out His mercy/grace on them - so that their lives become a beautiful picture of what God desires to do in the hearts of men and women.

**KEY:** Jonah had the right answers, but he didn't have the right heart. He understood theologically for God to be gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He understood what those things meant.

**God's love:** Hebrew אַהֲבָה (ḥě·sěd): loyal love, unfailing kindness, devotion, i.e., a love or affection that is steadfast based on a prior relationship

- God's covenant commitment to those that repent of their sin

**KEY:** God has compassion on who He pleases to have compassion on - whether you like them or not.

**Jonah 4:3** Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

- Jonah's tune when he was about to die was completely different in Chapter 2. Does he not see the incongruity of his own prayers?

**Jonah 4:4** But the LORD replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

Most of us are like Jonah. Most of us like what God says until we are called into action. God wants our hearts!

God has more work to do on all our hearts. What needs to change in your heart? When called to action, what is your response?

**THE POINT:** God, do surgery on my heart, that I will have compassion for lost and broken people.