

- Still angry with the Lord, Jonah makes a shelter for himself ... God takes another opportunity to teach Jonah ... He causes a plant to grow, providing extra shade ... Jonah's response to being rescued from trouble is different than when God rescued Nineveh (4:6 with 3:10-4:1) ... Quickly the plant appears and disappears ... Next God sends scorching heat and wind ... Jonah's shelter turns into an oven rather than a refuge ... He's crumbling under what's happening
- The Lord questions him again – **Is it right for you to be angry** ... Jonah proudly justifies his anger before the Lord ... God isn't being fair ... Why is Jonah experiencing punishment ... He feels entitled to deliverance and mercy
  - The Lord confronts Jonah ... He's more distressed over one plant dying than the possibility of an entire city being wiped out by God's judgment ... He didn't grow the plant nor care for it ... God knows how many live in Nineveh ... Each one created in His image ... They're utterly lost and unaware of His presence ... If He decides to save them, even half of them, does He not have that right ... Should He not be concerned ... Should we not also be concerned ... Ending with a question forces the reader to give a response
- Jonah has forgotten his calling to represent the Lord ... Like religious leaders in NT ... Like many Christians today ... Let's be honest, we like to think we're better than we are ... Answering for yourself, "Am I merciful to others; am I forgiving of others", is a lot different than asking someone else to give their observation ... You and I would do well to listen to their honesty, and take seriously their insight
  - Every area of your life needs to be conformed to the image of Christ ... Instead of "that's how I am" maybe we pray: *Reveal to me how I'm not like You, Lord, and change those areas so people see You through me*
  - **Tripp:** *Things that happen to me will influence my responses but never determine them ... my responses flow out of the thoughts and motives of my heart.* ... Let the gospel inform every response – **Ep4:31-5:2**
- This story will either break our spiritual pride or it will harden our spiritual pride ... Extending mercy to others is sign of receiving God's mercy ... Forgiving others is sign of receiving God's forgiveness ... **Watson:** *We need not climb up into heaven to see whether our sins are forgiven: let us look into our hearts and see if we can forgive others* ... You have no more of a right to God's mercy and forgiveness and grace than the next person ... Each one is given to you by God as a gift ... If He doesn't make you earn them, why do you insist others must earn them
- Sin runs rampant in the world, but even greater sin runs rampant in the Church ... Greater – we know how we're supposed to live ... How often do we choose to ignore it, justify ourselves, focus on the sins of others ... **Mt9:36-38**
  - A Church that's self-righteous, hypocritical, judgmental, focused on the sins around them is a Church that's forgotten who they are
  - A Church that's humble, merciful, gracious, forgiving, selfless, sacrificial is a Church that knows who they are ... These are the Christians that this world desperately needs to encounter each day
- **Sklar:** In Jesus, we have experienced God's abundant grace, mercy, love, and forgiveness. If we show these same things to everyone we meet, no matter who they are—no matter their morals, race, nationality, social class, gender, political beliefs, etc.—then we have understood well the lesson of this book and the heart of our Savior. But if we show these things to some people and not to others; if we show these things to those like us but not to those who are different; if we show these things to those we like but not to those we dislike; if we are in any way selective in terms of the people to whom we show God's grace, mercy, love, and forgiveness, then we still do not get it. We remain disciples of Jonah, not disciples of Jesus.