

## Closing Questions!

- 1.) Do we question God in His motives and actions? Does He not have the right to forgive whom he chooses to forgive?
- 2.) Do we find ourselves concerned with our comfort?
- 3.) Do lost people really matter to you and I?
- 4.) Who are the three people in your life that you are willing to invest time into, invite, and pray for?

## “Called”

# ‘Jonah’s Anger and the Lord’s Compassion!’ Jonah 4

Pastor Dan

“<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.<sup>1</sup>”-Jonah 3:10

### 1.) What the Lord did was evil to Jonah! V1

- A. The opening preposition “but” shows Jonah still didn’t care what the Lord wanted!
  - a. Jonah thought that he knew more than God!
  - b. It displeased Jonah that God would show mercy yet he himself was shown mercy.
- B. In Hebrew the word for “Displeased” is the Hebrew word RA “רָעָה” which means evil!
  - a. Jonah is now accusing the Lord of doing evil!
  - b. Jonah in other words is disgusted by the actions of the Lord in hearing the cries of the Ninevites.
  - c. He thought the Lord should have punished the evil Ninevites instead of showing mercy!

“In my distress, I called to the LORD, and he answered me.  
From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help,  
and you listened to my cry.”– Jonah 2:2

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<sup>1</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jon 3:10.

## 2.) Jonah offers a prayer of rebuke to the Lord! 2-3

- A. This time Jonah does not mention praying to the Lord his God instead it just mentions him praying to the Lord! V2
  - a. He does use God's proper name, Yahweh.
    - 1. In one sense he acknowledges the Lord's ultimate power and authority while at the same time telling God that he knew what was best!
  - b. He was trying to validate his decision to run away from God in the first place!
    - 1. "I know **that You** are forgiving and now look what has happened!"<sup>2</sup>
  - c. Jonah was offended by one of God's core characteristics His grace and mercy, yet God is still a God of judgment and righteousness.
- B. Jonah asked the Lord to take his life! V3
  - a. He so quickly forgot how the Lord had spared his life for him.
  - b. In the past prophets struggled with depression because the people would not repent. In case Jonah was depressed because the people did repent.

## 3.) The Lord questions Jonah's heart and rationale. V4

"I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."—Jeremiah 17:10

- A. God asks Jonah what right he has to be angry! V 4
  - a. Jonah was to speak God's message, not the other way around!
  - b. We need to be reminded that God is God and we are not!

## 4.) Jonah ran away from the Lord again! V5-9

- A. By going east of the city Jonah is running further away from Jerusalem and Nineveh.
- B. He was still holding out hope that the Lord would see things his way and bring destruction!
- C. The Lord continued to see Jonah and provide for him!
- D. When God took away Jonah's comfort he wanted to die! The Lord seems more concerned with Jonah's heart than his comfort!

## 5.) "The Lord has the final say!" V10-11

- A. God condemns Jonah's care for that which has no eternal significance! V10
  - a. Jonah cared more about his comfort than the eternal destination of others.
  - b. God created both the plan and the people!
- B. God declares that he has the right to care about the 120,000 people that were lost.
  - a. They didn't know their right hand from their left!
  - b. Jonah knew the truth and did nothing with it!
  - c. God even cared about the cattle!

<sup>34</sup> "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Luke 12:34

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<sup>2</sup> John D. Hannah, "[Jonah](#)," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 1470.