

Jonah 3:10

God saw their actions—that they had turned from their evil ways—so God relented from the disaster He had threatened them with. And He did not do it.

Jonah 4:1-11

Jonah was greatly displeased and became furious. ²He prayed to the Lord, “Please, Lord, isn’t this what I said while I was still in my own country? That’s why I fled toward Tarshish in the first place. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger, abounding in faithful love, and one who relents from sending disaster. ³And now, Lord, take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴The Lord asked, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Jonah left the city and found a place east of it. He made himself a shelter there and sat in its shade to see what would happen to the city. ⁶Then the Lord God appointed a plant, and it grew over Jonah to provide shade for his head to rescue him from his trouble. Jonah was greatly pleased with the plant. ⁷When dawn came the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, and it withered. ⁸As the sun was rising, God appointed a scorching east wind. The sun beat down on Jonah’s head so much that he almost fainted, and he wanted to die. He said, “It’s better for me to die than to live.” ⁹Then God asked Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?” “Yes, it’s right!” he replied. “I’m angry enough to die!” ¹⁰And the Lord said, “You cared about the plant, which you did not labor over and did not grow. It appeared in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹So may I not care about the great city of Nineveh, which has more than a hundred twenty thousand people who cannot distinguish between their right and their left, as well as many animals?”

Similarities with Jonah:

- Relapse → (God’s patience)
- Emotional roller coaster
- Temptation to quit
- Conflict: comfort & cause
- Cliff-hanger (unresolved ending)

Jonah 4:1-2

Jonah was greatly displeased and became furious. ²He prayed to the Lord, “Please, Lord, isn’t this what I said while I was still in my own country? That’s why I fled toward Tarshish in the first place. I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger, abounding in faithful love, and one who relents from sending disaster.

Jonah is upset because God acted like Himself.

- His problem is resistance and resentment.

1) How **excited** are we that God is on the **throne** and not us?

When things do not go Jonah's (~our) way –

- Runs
- Gets angry
- Wants to give up

Anger is **"soul" gauge** → Evidence that **self** is on the **throne** ...?

- Nationalism: *Nineveh destroyed*
- Self-righteousness: Jonah's sin is < Nineveh's
- Ego: He knows better than God

The last **enemy** to be destroyed in the believer is **SELF**.

Jonah 4:3-6a

And now, Lord, take my life from me, for it is **better for me** to die than to live."

⁴The Lord asked, "Is it **right** for you to be **angry**?" ⁵Jonah left the city and found a place east of it. He made himself a shelter there and sat in its shade to see what would happen to the city. ⁶Then the Lord God **appointed** ...

- *Plant; worm; scorching wind*

2) Are we aware of how our **enemies** cooperate and can potentially blind us to God's **purposes** as well as to His **grace & mercy**?

Martin Luther--

"The devil rode upon my back."

- Satan did not send the plant, the worm or the wind!
- Satan attacks through the sinful (~enthroned) self.
 - Indwelling sin: dormant (Ch. 2-3) into a landing zone (Ch.1,4)

Jonah 4:9-11

Then God asked Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" **"Yes, it's right!"** he replied. "I'm **angry** enough to die!" ¹⁰And the Lord said, "You cared about the plant, which you did not labor over and did not grow. It appeared in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹So may I not **care** about the great city of Nineveh, which has more than **a hundred twenty thousand people** who **cannot distinguish** between their right and their left, as well as many animals?"

3) Have we embraced the reality that God is thoroughly committed to our **transformation**?

- Jonah AND Nineveh
- OVER circumstantial comfort & personal preference
- OVER our performance

God's love is a **transforming** love, not merely an **accepting** love.

- Accepting love at some point becomes unloving
- Unholy happiness does not last

4 Steps toward Transformation & Purpose:

- Be **born again** into God's family (or be sure you *are* born again)

I John 3:9

The person who has been **born into God's family** does not make a practice of sinning because now **God's life is in him**; so he can't keep on sinning, for this **new life** has been born into him and **controls** him—he has been **born again**.

4 Steps toward Transformation & Purpose:

- Be **born again** into God's family ...
- Commit to **prayer**
- Embrace & trust the God appointed **process**
- **Answer** the call and **advance** the Kingdom of God!

4) What becomes of **Jonah** ...? What's the **next chapter** in our story?

- A people of grace who practice the presence of God
- A people who are generous *for* the Kingdom of God
- A people who willingly go to Nineveh

****The next chapter is NOW!****