

Jonah Study



“THE POUTING PROPHET” Jonah 4[□]

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,” (2 Pet 1:3 ESV)

Big Idea: “because God, by His grace and mercy finds pleasure and is glorified in saving repentant sinners, we His people must find our joy and pleasure in actively being engaged in His redemptive plan.”

Jonah's Angry Prayer About God's Mercy (4:1-4)

¹But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. ² And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, ...I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. ³ Therefore, ...please take my life from me...” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Do you do well to be angry?” (Jonah 4:1-4 ESV)

- **But it...**in contrast to the great revival of chapter 3:10, Jonah reacts with exceeding displeasure.
 - Disapproved and offended, to an extreme degree
 - Anger, or slow kindling fire producing a burning sensation in the throat
- This extreme displeasure was caused by, according to Jonah, God being God!

Jonah's Object Lesson About God's Mercy (4:5-11)

⁶ 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. ...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?” (Jonah 4:5-11 ESV)

- God's four appointed objects in the book of Jonah...
 - “...appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah.” (1:17)
 - “...appointed a plant...to save him from his discomfort...” (4:6)
 - “...appointed a worm that attacked the plant...” (4:7)
 - “...appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun... so that he was faint...” (4:8)
- As long as the God's mercy through the plant benefitted Jonah, he was exceedingly glad. But, rock his world with circumstances that no longer benefit him, he wants to give up and die.
- God equates the level of comfort the plant provided Jonah with the level of comfort sinners who repent of their sinful ways provided for God.

So What?

So what have we learned from this morning's passage as well as the overall theme of Jonah?

1. God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.
2. Because God is who He is, God pursues His lost people relentlessly, and will stop at nothing until they are in His fold.
3. Life is not about us, it's about God and His plan...not our comfort, but His glory...it's God's “gig” not ours!
4. We as God's people must find our joy and satisfaction in being used by God for His purpose.

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