

## Jonah 4 Angry with God?

### Chapter 3

**“Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”**

Chapter 3 ends with a miracle for the ages. Ninevites (pagans) repent & believe God.

**<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.**

**Does God change His mind?**

### **Jonah's Anger and the LORD's Compassion**

**4 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. <sup>2</sup> And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. <sup>3</sup> Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup> And the LORD said, “Do you do well to be angry?”**

**What's wrong with Jonah's thinking?**

Other places in the Bible where someone is angry at God for being merciful:

### **Laborers in the Vineyard – (Matthew 20)**

**20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup> and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ <sup>5</sup> So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup> They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ <sup>8</sup> And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ <sup>9</sup> And**

when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, <sup>12</sup> saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first last."

#### HATING GOD'S GRACE

PERSON	THE QUESTION	IN THE HEART—PREVENTING JOY
Workers in the Vineyard (Matt 20)	<b>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?'</b>	

#### Parable of the Prodigal Son - (Luke 15)

<sup>25</sup> "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup> And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup> but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

#### HATING GOD'S GRACE

PERSON	THE QUESTION	IN THE HEART—PREVENTING JOY
Older Brother (Luke 15)	<b>'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"</b>	

## Jonah 4

<sup>5</sup> Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. <sup>6</sup> 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. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. <sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." <sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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?"

### HATING GOD'S GRACE

PERSON	THE QUESTION	IN THE HEART—PREVENTING JOY
Jonah (Jonah 4)	And the LORD said, "Do you do well to be angry?"	

## BOOK OF JONAH

CHAPTER	GOD INITIATES	WHAT GOD IS LIKE
<b>1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Call to Jonah</li> <li>- Sent great wind &amp; storm</li> <li>- Pagan ship-captain confronts Jonah</li> <li>- Lot falls on Jonah</li> <li>- Stops the sea from raging</li> <li>- Pagan sailors believe</li> <li>- Appointed a great fish</li> </ul>	<p><u>God's Actions for His People:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls His elect into action for the Kingdom</li> <li>• Will create a crisis, if necessary, to rescue me</li> <li>• Might scare me to rescue me</li> <li>• His interventions in my life:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ signal that He loves me and wants to change me.</li> <li>○ Show His fingerprints, leaving no doubt God is in control</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>God Uses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flawed/weak people for the kingdom</li> <li>• Even my sin for His kingdom</li> <li>• Anything/anyone for His purposes (nature, pagans, game of chance, fish)</li> </ul> <p><u>God's Heart:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wants to save His elect; even the very worst</li> <li>• Sees evil; never unaware</li> <li>• Patient with me</li> <li>• Always sees me</li> <li>• Cannot flee His presence</li> <li>• I will never be out of His sight or attention</li> <li>• Can sense my heart hardening—even when doing good things for the Kingdom.</li> <li>• Won't let me minimize my sin</li> <li>• Nationalism/racism/pride is evil when prioritized over souls</li> </ul> <p><u>God's Power:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Causes even pagans to call out to Him</li> <li>• Can change lost hearts</li> <li>• Will not allow me to be lost</li> <li>• Will turn me around; chase me down</li> <li>• Where God calls...He provides</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trapped inside fish w/ no options</li> <li>- Prays</li> <li>- Repentance</li> <li>- Makes fish vomit Jonah safely onto dry land</li> </ul>	<p><u>Value of God bringing me low for a time</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knows how to strip me of false gods</li> <li>• Protected while under discipline</li> <li>• Knows how to get my attention, spiritually</li> <li>• Brings new awareness of both Him and me</li> <li>• Illuminates:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ sin in my life</li> <li>○ my idols</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Brings me to repentance</li> <li>• Reminds me that God is the author of my salvation</li> <li>• Creates a longing for God &amp; Kingdom</li> <li>• Crisis:</li> </ul>

CHAPTER	GOD INITIATES	WHAT GOD IS LIKE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Perfectly timed</li> <li>○ Duration is perfect (never too early or late)</li> <li>○ Only severe enough to change me</li> <li>○ Ensures my idols don't fulfill me</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></p>	<p>Calls Jonah a 2<sup>nd</sup> time</p> <p>Gives Jonah a message that's effective</p> <p>Causes people, king &amp; nobles to believe</p> <p>People call out to God and repent; turn from evil</p> <p>God relents from disaster</p>	<p><u>God of 2<sup>nd</sup> (multiple) chances</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Long-suffering with me</li> <li>○ Does not hate me</li> <li>○ Willing to use my sin for His glory</li> <li>○ Not deterred by my anger</li> </ul> <p><u>Following God's Direction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● He provides direction when I need it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Even when not making sense to me</li> <li>○ Bears fruit I cannot deliver <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conviction, spiritual mourning</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Protection</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>God's Heart</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Can/wants to convert the worst people</li> <li>● Is open to me being honest; calling out to Him</li> <li>● Responds to genuine repentance</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p>	<p>Diagnostic question <b>"Do you do well to be angry?"</b></p> <p>Appointed a plant &amp; made it grow for comfort</p> <p>Appointed these for pain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ scorching wind</li> <li>○ hot sun</li> <li>○ worm</li> </ul> <p>Diagnostic questions &amp; answers</p>	<p><u>Never changes; always is:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ gracious, merciful</li> <li>○ slow to anger, steadfast love</li> <li>○ relents from disaster</li> <li>○ pities the lost</li> <li>○ won't kill His elect—even when deserving it</li> </ul> <p><u>Shows me my heart (experientially) to change me.</u></p> <p>He uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Comfort, mercy and pain</li> <li>○ Appointing the most unlikely things</li> <li>○ Owns everything</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● When He brings loss into my life: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ He's got the right as the owner</li> <li>○ His motivation is pure</li> <li>○ Designed to teach/change</li> <li>○ Discern why I'm angry (at Whom?)</li> <li>○ Wants His love for me to be "enough" to absorb losses without crashing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Reveals His perspective to me (correcting my perspective)</li> <li>● Wants me to search my heart when angry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ With Him</li> <li>○ With circumstances</li> </ul> </li> </ul>