

Jonah  
Jonah 3:10-4:11

I. Intro

- A. God's servant is sent to do God's work.
- B. We do not have the privilege of telling God how to do His work...or who He should rescue.
- C. We act in obedience, and God works in His special way.

II. Text

A. Summarize chapters 1-3

1. Jonah is called by God to go a certain direction, and do a certain thing...
2. He chooses the opposite and tries to run, as far from God as possible.
3. God delivers Jonah in a way that is supernatural.
4. Jonah prayed while in the fish, God caused the fish to spit him out on dry land, and then he went and did what he was suppose to do.

B. 3:10: Mission Accomplished

1. Nineveh: had been warned and repented
2. The story of Nineveh is about the redemption of the pagan city, and they responded to the opportunity.

C. 4:1-4:

1. But it displeases Jonah
2. Jonah is in full recognition of the reality and truth of God.
3. And God asks, "Do you do well to be angry?"

D. 4:5-10

1. Jonah went out to pout
2. He built a shelter to throw his pity party
3. God then caused a vine to grow and provide shade, then killed the vine.
4. Jonah wanted God to take his life, he was upset.
5. Jonah said he had good reason to be angry...his mindset was on his own will rather than God's.

Matthew Henry: See how mildly the great God speaks to this foolish man, to teach us to restore those that have fallen with a spirit of meekness, and with soft answers to turn away wrath. God appeals to himself and to his own conscience: "Doest thou well? Thou knowest thou does not." We should often put this question to ourselves, Is it well to say thus, to do thus? Can I justify it? Must I not unsay it and undo it again by repentance, or be undone forever? Ask,

1. Do I well to be angry? When passion is up, let it meet with this check, "Do I well to be so soon angry, so often angry, so long angry, to put myself into such a heat, and to give others such ill language in my anger? Is this well, that I suffer these headstrong passions to get dominion over me?"

2. "Do I well to be angry at the mercy of God to repenting sinners?" That was Jonah's crime. Do we do well to be angry at that which is so much for the glory of God and the advancement of his kingdom among men-to be angry at that which angels rejoice in and for which abundant thanksgivings will be rendered to God? We do ill to be angry at that grace which we ourselves need and are undone without; if room were not left for repentance, and hope given of pardon upon repentance, what would become of us? Let the conversion of sinners, which is the joy of heaven, be our joy, and never our grief.

E. 4:11

1. The spiritual condition of the city of Nineveh was clear, they were lost and not aware of how to do anything about it.
2. God shows the foolishness of Jonah's argument.
3. The thing Jonah is upset about, is what he is also doing.
4. ...and also much cattle

### III. Point

#### A. The Grace of God is to be Celebrated

1. We should be a people that celebrate God's grace no matter who it is poured out upon.
2. The Prodigal Son:
  - a) The Prodigal left and returned and was welcomed back with great celebration.
  - b) The son who did not leave was jealous
3. Not all people are easy to love, and some may even be written off by believers...But that is just the starting point for ministry!
4. We desire God to do His work, and we desire to be a part of it.
  - a) What if...revival broke out...but at a different church?
  - b) What if...someone who had committed grievous sins...was called to ministry?
  - c) What if...someone who disgusts you by their actions and disregard for God... responds to God and is blessed?
5. We celebrate God's grace!

#### B. The Anger of Man is a Barrier

1. Do you do well in your anger?
  - a) Be Angry about the right things.
    - (1) Be angry about your own self righteousness first:
    - (2) Matthew 7:3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?
  - b) Be angry in the right way:
    - (1) Handle yourself in a manner worthy of the calling.
    - (2) Ephesians 4:26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil.
    - (3) James 1:20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.
  - c) Let your anger be a motivator for ministry
    - (1) If you grow angry in a situation, be a part of the solution.
    - (2) These battles are spiritual
    - (3) Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.
2. We place barriers in our life by what we are angry about.
3. We get distracted in our anger

#### C. The Righteousness of God is our Contrast

1. Jonah is caught up in his self righteousness and is missing the miracle working power of God.
2. God shows grace to a repentant people who were deserving of wrath.
3. What Jonah forgot...
  - a) His self righteousness did not please God
  - b) His position as Prophet did not please God
  - c) He had done nothing to deserve God's grace, calling, or blessing.
  - d) Nineveh was full of people that were marked by the fingerprint of God.
4. In a world full of contradictions and mixed messages, we see Jonah's example.
5. He didn't see his own sin, just the sin of Nineveh.
  - a) We are so much like Jonah
  - b) We tend to find ways to justify our own sin while we look on the sins of others with disgust.

### IV. Close

- A. Repent! Turn from your sin! Turn to Christ!
- B. Celebrate the work of God!
- C. Surrender to Jesus and be a willing servant