

The Great Concern

Jonah Series

June 7, 2015

INTRODUCTION

In response to Jonah's message, Nineveh had called out to God, and God had compassion on them. However, Jonah was not happy about what happened. In fact, he was so angry at God's decision to spare Nineveh that he wanted to die. In the last chapter of this incredible book, we see that Jonah needed some help to really understand and grasp the extent of God's grace and mercy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jonah 3:10 ends with God having compassion on the Ninevites. However, chapter 4 opens with the statement: "But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry (literally he "burned" with anger). How different would your understanding of this book be if it ended with chapter 3?
2. Read Jonah 4:2-3. Describe Jonah's emotional state in these verses. Why was Jonah so angry? What do we learn about God from his prayer?
3. Are you surprised with Jonah's response to God's kindness? Do you think that he had a good reason to be upset? Do you ever feel resentful when something good happens to someone else? If so, why?
4. Read Jonah 4:4. What was God's reaction to Jonah's anger? What do you think God was trying to get at by asking this question?
5. Read and paraphrase in your own words what happened in Jonah 4:5-8. What was Jonah so upset about? What do you think was really going on in his heart? Does this resonate with you?
6. Read Jonah 4:9-11. What does God say in response to Jonah's anger? What does this reveal about what God's heart for the Ninevites?
7. What temporary things are you more concerned about than the eternal destinies of other people? How can you keep yourself from becoming uncaring about others, especially those outside the faith?

CONCLUSION

All along, God has been inviting Jonah to be a part of Nineveh's salvation, and similarly, He's inviting us to be a part of his mission for the world. How can we be more intentional about partnering with Him in sharing the Gospel with those who do not yet know Him? What steps can we take in order to align our hearts with God's heart for our family, our friends, our colleagues and our neighbors?

"...I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity." – Jonah 4:2