

Jonah – 4:1-11

“We pursue being a disciple making family: *surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and **saturated in His word.***”

In this text today we see Jonah sharing his true feelings with God. We see the reason why he didn't want to go to Nineveh. He clearly shows he knows the character of God and really enjoys the benefits of God's character but has no desire for Nineveh to experience them. Jonah is extremely angry, and it is clear throughout this passage. At the core he is angry with God. He is really struggling to see how God could show mercy to Nineveh. Let's take a look at a couple of questions to dig deeper.

Discussion Questions* – *do not feel the pressure to cover them all

1. This text is really a mirror to us all; we are all Jonah. We see from the very beginning that Jonah is extremely angry. We see that Jonah clearly knows the character of God. We also finally see why Jonah did not want to go to Tarshish. He knew that God's character is merciful, gracious, loving, patient, and faithful. Jonah was glad to experience God's character in his own life but did not want the Ninevites to experience it. How can you relate to this? Have you ever wanted or experienced the mercy of God in your own life but failed to give it to others? Have you ever been angry with God because of His character?
2. It can be easy for us to struggle with understanding why Jonah would not want the people of Nineveh to receive God's mercy. But if we think about it the people of Nineveh were very torturous and brutally violent people. If the people of Israel had experienced this brutality it would be difficult to just forget about it. He may have even questioned the justice of God. He may have even known personally people who had experienced the suffering. How would you have handled this if you were Jonah? Do you find it difficult to trust God in moments of difficulty? What can we learn from Jonah's experience about God's plan for all people?
3. Jonah wanted to die; he was so angry. He went outside the city in hopes that God would destroy it. He began to build comfort outside the city. God provided a plant to cover his head in the shade. He was exceedingly glad. When the plant was eaten and the scorching wind came, he was so angry. He was more concerned about a plant than people. God calls him out and points out to Jonah that he didn't grow the plant, but he cares more for the plant than the people. How do we care more for comfort than the people? What comfort do we care more about than the mission of God?

4. We see the book of Jonah ending in a question. We don't know what becomes of Jonah. The book is really meant more for us. How will we respond? What has the book of Jonah called your attention to in your life? What is God calling you to or better yet who is God calling you to?
5. Pray for 3 billion unreached people groups around the world who have never heard the name of Jesus. Pray for those who are comfortable and missing the mission.