

Jonah: The Mercy of God and the Actions of Man

Week 10 – The Faithful Loving God

Jonah 4:5-9

God mercifully shows Jonah how sin has twisted Jonah's heart and mind.

Action: We will quickly remember sins corruption and plead for God to be patient, reveal our sin, and lead to repentance and forgiveness

Series Graphic (SLIDE 1)

Opening Idea

A man was going to meet his brother. The two men left each other years before in conflict. It was time to reconcile. The younger brother was afraid of the older brother, but God had told the younger brother to reconcile. Now, the younger brother stood to meet his older brother and he grew afraid. He retreated from the meeting place, and his fear was great. God wrestled with Jacob and eventually displaced Jacob's hip, created a covenant agreement with him, promised to give him unmeasurable offspring, and bless him. God loved Jacob in a dynamic way and on that day changed Jacob's name to Israel ("He Struggles with God"). God speaks to future generations of His great love for Jacob, even though Jacob did not earn nor deserve God's love. God was faithful to love Israel because God is the faithful loving God!

We continue studying the historical account of Jonah to see God show His mercy to Jonah. God is merciful because of who God is, not because of who Jonah is. We will look this morning at God's love dynamically demonstrated. Let's learn more about God!

Merciful Reminder: Do You Do Well to be Angry? (SLIDE 2)

- This question has reminded us of God's mercy and has challenged us to see God's mercy given to us. This question will be asked again today, and God will use the question to reveal more about the condition of Jonah's heart and mind.

Read

Jonah 4:5-9 ESV

(SLIDE 3) 5 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. 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. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant.

(SLIDE 4) 7 But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. 8 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.” 9 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.”

Series Graphic (SLIDE 5)

Notes on Jonah 4:5-9

Jonah Holds Out Hope...in a Bad Way (v. 5)

Jonah leaves Ninevah as the Awakening continues. Jonah shows that he does not want to be in the city as this spiritual movement sweeps across the city and reconciles people to God. From the context of the previous passage, Jonah is angry and is not joyful about God withholding His wrath and causing the Ninevites to humbly repent. It is appropriate to think that Jonah leaves the city in anger, takes an elevated place where he can look over the city, constructs himself a shelter, and watches to see what will happen to the city. Maybe there is an emotional desire that God will change His plans and pour out His wrath upon the city and destroy it. It isn't likely that Jonah looks at what happens to Ninevah with joy and thanksgiving. It seems that Jonah laments that the city is saved. So, Jonah takes his perch to see what might happen at the end of the 40 days. He might hope that the 40 days will end and God will destroy Ninevah. Jonah leaves, sits, waits, and hopes in anger.

God is Mercifully Kind and Jonah is Glad (v. 6)

God knows Jonah's heart and mind continue to be impacted and hardened by his anger. Jonah is angry for the reprieve given the Ninevites and he is angry at God for withholding His wrath. This anger continues causing Jonah to sin. Yet, God is kind to Jonah. The booth that Jonah builds in verse 5 might be similar to the booth built during the festival of booths (remembering God's provision for 40 years in the desert). However Jonah builds the booth or tent, it is not a sturdy structure for long term use. Jonah is watching the city, and he continues struggling from the hot radiant sun shining down upon his head. Rather than let Jonah sit in discomfort, God causes a vine to grow. The growth of the vine covers the top of the booth to provide shade from the sun. Jonah is still angry and hopes that God will destroy the city, but God is kind to Jonah and relieves his physical suffering. Jonah is covered in shade by God and finds relief from the sun. Jonah is happy. The ESV writes that Jonah was “exceedingly happy” for the vine and the shade from the sun. This statement contrasts with Jonah's exceeding displeasure at God's mercy and grace toward the Ninevites. Nevertheless, Jonah is happy for the cover.

God Continues Using Nature to Correct Jonah (v. 7-8)

God has used various aspects of nature as part of His work in Jonah's life and in the salvation of the Ninevites. God has used the wind, the waves, the boat, the ocean, the seaweed, and the great fish. God continues utilizing nature to accomplish His efficacious will. In chapter four, Jonah has taken position east of Ninevah. He has built a booth or tent to sit in and find protection from the

elements. We read in verse 6 that God caused a vine to grow and give Jonah shade and save Jonah from discomfort. Jonah doesn't build the booth/tent well enough to provide adequate covering. God causes the vine to grow. The next day, God also causes a worm to attack the plant, and it dies. The vine no longer provides comfort for Jonah. The sun rises and shines down upon Jonah causing Jonah displeasure. Along with the scorching sun, God causes a "scorching east wind" to blow and cause Jonah to faint. When wind blows with the hot sun, a person might find it refreshing, but God causes this wind to blow hot air. Where God once brought Jonah comfort from the elements, now God is using the elements and causing Jonah discomfort. Jonah, in his weakened state, petitions for God to end Jonah's life stating, "It is better for me to die than to live." God is exposing the calloused condition of Jonah's heart and mind. Jonah's anger is growing and contaminating Jonah's heart and mind.

Jonah is Still Angry (v. 9)

God asks the revealing question again, but with a different focus. God asks the question with the focus on Jonah's anger being on the loss of the plant. Jonah is angry that the worm killed the plant that had provided Jonah relief from the sun and brought Jonah pleasure. Jonah is angry with God for killing the plant. It isn't directly expressed, but the nature and wording of the question reveal that Jonah is still angry and that anger continues causing Jonah to sin. Jonah is still angry, and he is angry enough to die. In a sense, Jonah is spiritually dead due to his anger. It isn't that Jonah is separated from God by Jonah's sin, but Jonah is twisted in what he cares for and what causes Jonah to be angry with God and judge. This isn't a separate case of anger, but God is showing that anger has rooted itself in Jonah's heart and it is twisting his love for God, his fear of God, and the ability to rejoice in God's withholding wrath and being gracious and merciful to undeserving people. Jonah's anger shows that Jonah's plans are greater and purer than God's will and actions. Jonah is still angry and continues sinning.

God Faithfully Loves His People (SLIDE 6)

He Loves Us with Kindness (SLIDE 7)

Meeting Our Needs

Empowering Us

Titus 3:4-6 ESV

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his

own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

He Loves Us with Discipline (SLIDE 8)

Correcting Us

Transforming Us

Proverbs 3:11-12 ESV

11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,

12 for the Lord reproves him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.

*** God's Love Changes Us to Love Like He Loves (SLIDE 9)**

We Love Him

We Love Ourselves

We Love Others

Merciful Response (SLIDE 10)

God, Love Us Causing Us to Love Others

Read

Psalm 143:8 ESV (SLIDE 11)

8 Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love,
for in you I trust.

Make me know the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.

Series Graphic (SLIDE 12)

Daily Readings

Week 10 – Faithful Loving God

Day 1

Psalms 143:8 ESV

8 Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love,
for in you I trust.

Make me know the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.

Your heart and mind are to crave God's love. In your ever changing and wandering ways and in your most consistent days, God is always faithful. He loves you as His child. God's love is faithful, and He gives it faithfully. Trust in Him! Petition God asking for His love to transform you and guide you to live and love in ways that glorify Him. He is a faithful loving God!

Day 2

Titus 3:4-6 ESV

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Jesus is the manifestation of God's love and kindness toward you. He saved you through faith in Christ alone because of His love for you. This show of mercy changed you and made you new by the working of the Holy Spirit. All this that God did was through Jesus Christ. If you ever doubt God's love for you, think on this passage and remember that God is a faithful loving God!

Day 3

Proverbs 3:11-12 ESV

11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,

12 for the Lord reproves him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.

You remember times when you were not faithful or loyal to God. You were His by the saving faith God gave you to believe in Jesus Christ. You needed correction. He did not let you continue in the way of sin and rebellion but corrected you and disciplined you. Do not hate your Father's

discipline and corrections. It is evidence of His love for you and God's work to make you more a son like The Son. You are God's child, and He delights in you! God is a faithful loving God!

Day 4

1 John 3:16-18 ESV

16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. **17** But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? **18** Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

A powerful reminder of God's love for you is that Jesus laid down His life for you by God's will and plan. This love transforms us to willingly lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters in Christ. As people whom God has shown love and deposited His love into us, we are to show Godly love. If we have resources and supplies that we acknowledge are from God and we do not share them with those in need, we act like we do not have God's love in us. Rather than acting like we do not love and do not have love, let us show the love we have from God, our Father, in our words and in our deeds. Let God's love overflow from your heart. You are loved by a faithful loving God!

Day 5

1 John 4:9-11 ESV

9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. **10** In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

You were, at one time, a dead person in need of life. God, because of His great love, gave you faith to believe in Jesus Christ and you were made alive. Jesus fulfilled the demand of God for sin by suffering the full wrath of God on your behalf. You are loved and are God's beloved! This Godly love causes you to love. You are growing to love in Godly ways that brings God joy and glory. You are loved by a faithful loving God!