

## Man's Anger Toward God's Mercy

### Jonah 4

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#### **Introduction**

Jonah was real prophet who lived during the reign of King Rehoboam II during the 8<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. He was mentioned in the book of II Kings 14:25.

What the book is about:

1. God's great mercy toward man.
2. Jonah's struggle with that mercy.

Sermon Outline:

- I. The Reality
- II. The Problem
- III. The Remedy

#### **I. The Reality – God is a Merciful God**

Jonah 4:2b (NIV)

*"...You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity."*

Examples of God's love and mercy in the book of Jonah:

##### **a. His mercy toward the Ninevites.**

Jonah 1:1-2

##### **b. His mercy toward the sailors.**

Jonah 1:16

##### **c. His mercy toward Jonah**

Jonah 1:17

Deut. 4:31

Neh. 9:31

Daniel 9:9

Jeremiah 3:12

II. **The Problem – Jonah had a problem with reality (4:1-3).**

Jonah 4:1 (NIV)

But Jonah was **greatly displeased** and became **angry**.

Two things to note about Jonah's anger.

1. Jonah's anger was triggered by the evil that he saw (1:2).

Nahum 3:1 (NIV)

Woe to the city of blood,  
full of lies,  
full of plunder,  
never without victims!

2. Jonah felt justified for his anger.

Jonah 4:4 (NIV)

But the Lord replied, "Have you any **right** to be angry?"

James 4:2a (ESV)

You desire and do not have, so you murder (in your heart).

III. **The Remedy – Knowledge (4:6-11)**

a. **The knowledge of what's most important in life – people.**

Jonah 4:10-11

**Why? Man is made in God's image.**

Genesis 9:6

James 3:8-9

b. **The knowledge of the condition of sinful man.**

Jonah 4:11 (NIV)

But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people **who cannot tell their right hand from their left...**

Luke 23:34 (NIV)

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, **for they do not know what they are doing.**"

1 Corinthians 5:12a

Ephes. 2:1-10

**c. The knowledge that God has the right to govern the world as he pleases.**

Jonah 4:10-11

The sailors learned that lesson early.

Jonah 1:11-14

Exodus 33:19 (NIV)

"...I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

**Care Group Questions**

1. How were you affected by this message? Are there areas in your life that the Holy Spirit brought to your attention that you need to pray about or deal with?
2. Jonah was very angry that God spared Nineveh (4:1-3). What do you think is at the root of that anger?
3. What are some things that people get angry about in the world today that is ultimately directed toward God? How are you tempted to get angry at God?
4. Jonah's preaching as recorded in this book consists of a single verse (3:4). This probably indicates that the author intentionally minimized Jonah's role in Nineveh's repentance. What does this teach us about the relationship between our proclamation of God's word and the role of the Holy Spirit in bringing people to repentance?
5. How would you characterize the difference between the message that Jonah brought to Nineveh and the message that we get to bring to others today? How should you be affected by this difference?
6. Why is it much easier to extend mercy to others by giving them food, clothes and a place to stay while sharing the Gospel with them is so hard?
7. Are there people in your life that are like the Ninevites to Jonah? How can the care group pray for you concerning this?