

God's loving rebuke is aimed right at Jonah's heart, and ours.

Jonah 1-4
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God is laying siege to our hearts today.
His interest is that our hearts reflect His.

Yahweh would one day do what He asked Jonah to do:
physically enter a hostile world and preach to His enemies.

Our compassion on others is rooted in the compassion God has
shown and continues to show us.

Love the Gospel, Live the Gospel, Advance the Gospel

*We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the
Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.*

- What affected you the most in today's teaching? What challenged you or encouraged you? Did you learn anything?
- What was Jonah running from? Why?
- Are you ever tempted to feel that some sin you committed in the past (or continue to struggle with) puts you beyond the reach of God's grace? What encouraging news does the book of Jonah have for you? How can you encourage others who struggle with the same temptation?
- Where do you go to "flee from God" (could be a place, a group of people or person, computer, food, video games, alcohol, vacation dreams, fantasies, etc)?
- Do you view God as described in Jonah 4:2? Why or why not?
- How does Jonah expose your own self-righteousness, feelings of superiority and hypocrisy?
- How can you strive to have a heart that reflects God's heart? How do you love your enemies (or even those

Jonah and His Conflict with God

It's the middle of the eighth century BC

The neighboring nation of Assyria has established a
hundred-year-old reputation throughout the ancient world
as a cruel enemy.

Jonah was tormented.

This is an exhausting, dramatic, agonizing account, filled with
tension and irony, and at times humor.

Jonah 1

A reluctant Jonah runs from the LORD (1:1-3)

Jonah 1:3

Jonah's getaway plan doesn't work

Psalm 139:7-10

Jonah wanted *nothing* to do with God's plan so he filled his life
and schedule and thoughts with his *own* plans.

It's what he knew about God's character that bothered him
so much!

The Sovereign LORD faithfully pursues Jonah (1:4-2:10)

The LORD's personal involvement

Jonah 1:7-12

Verse 9 (ESV), *"I am Hebrew and I fear the LORD the God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land."*

In the midst of Jonah's reluctance, we see responsiveness from the pagan sailors:

They display mercy (pity and compassion on Jonah), fear of the LORD and an acknowledgment that Yahweh does as He pleases (Jonah 1:14).

Jonah 1:17

Jonah finds himself in a place of "mysterious safety"

A walk through Jonah's prayer (2:1-9)

Self-righteousness, feelings of superiority, hypocrisy

Jonah's idolatry got in the way of his view of God's grace.

A rescued Jonah proclaims judgment on his enemies (3:1-10)

The Ninevites expressed complete inability to contend with the divine truth they were hearing!

God decided to act in a different way towards the Ninevites. This wasn't divine failure this was divine mercy!

An angry Jonah resents God's character (4:1-10)

Jonah 4:2

Exodus 34:6-7

This is THE central expression of God's character in the OT.

Jesus tells *us* to love our enemies (**Matt 5:44; 6:27, 35**).

It requires an unavoidable sacrifice on your part each and every time you step out to actually love them.

2 Peter 3:9

"It could be His sovereign plan for us to go down today!"

"I'm ok with God as long as He judges my enemies!"

"I'm ok with God as long as He _____!"

The Sovereign LORD faithfully pursues Jonah (again)

"...angry enough to die."