

Jonah: Mercy Me?
2023-09-27

Jonah 4:11

should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

Like Jonah: want see God pour out judgment on evil leaders and co-workers.

- **Judgment of humans always harsher and angrier than judgment of God.**
 - **God's judgement ALWAYS perfectly just, but at same time merciful.**
 - **Jonah main point not God mercy but be mercy as Father mercy.**

World point of view: Jonah is Bible "fairy tale or allegory". **1925 Scopes and monkey trial.**

- **Real account and man named Jonah in 3rd person between 793-758 BC.**

Jonah only recorded prophet who rejected his commission from God. See outline at the end.

- **Prophet in Israel 30 years before Assyrian invasion, and probably heard Amos prophecy on Assyria's impending invasion of his homeland!**
- **Want Assyrian capital judged so Israel could escape judgment. Jonah 1:1-3a, 4, 7, 15-17**

Jonah fled to Tarshish, opposite direction.... "Throw me into sea" selfish...not go to Nineveh.

- **Historically verified people *swallowed* by fish or whales and live.**

Very stubborn: took 3 days and nights before repentance. Jonah 1:17-2:3a, 9-10, Matthew 12:40-41

- **God sovereign and His work done in spite of human weakness or imperfection.**
 - **Lord cast Jonah into deep, rescued with great fish then led him on 500-mile trip to Nineveh and greatest revival recorded in history. Jonah 3:10-4:3**

Jonah had right theology while having totally wrong heart!

- **Jonah knew God's character.... God of Old Testament and New Testament same God!**
 - **Cared more about revenge than spiritual destiny of 120,000.**
 - **Evil pagans more responsive than God's prophet (second time).**

God **not** rage at Jonah's **merciless attitude** but **treat same** as Nineveh...**mercifully**.

• **Lovingly** God **opens Jonah's eyes** to his **sinful anger and selfishness**.
Jonah **failed** lesson from **fish**, so God **reverse lesson** plan: in **water** Jonah went from **distress to deliver** now with **plant** from **deliver to distress**. *Jonah 4:6-8*

- **God** absolute **sovereign control** over **ANYTHING** and **anyone**.
 - Lord **uses wind**, gourd, worm **teach** Jonah that **only Lord decides when and how** He pours out His **salvation and mercy**.
- **God's mercy not grounded** in **sentiment** but in Jesus Christ's atoning **blood**.
 - Jesus **paid penalty** so **God** might be **merciful** to repentant **sinners**.
- **In Gospel** see that in every **true act of mercy**, **someone pays price**.
 - **What** is **true** of **God's mercy** should be **true** of **ours**.
 - **You pay price** by **pray** for **enemies**, forgiveness, **help**, time, money, **self**?
 - **Selfless concern expressed** in **selfless deeds**. Matthew 6:1-3

Lord requires His **people** follow **His example: be merciful as Father merciful**.
Luke 6:36, Matthew 18:32b-33, Romans 5:10

But being merciful **not easy.... power** show mercy **from God's mercy** toward **us**.

- **Every moment earthly and eternal** existence **undeserved mercy**.
- Final question** of Jonah also **addressed to you**. *Jonah 4:11, Romans 2:4*
- Should **God NOT have pity** on your **enemy** and extend **mercy to them**?
 - The **godless and disobedient** are **spiritually like children** who do not know right and left....are **objects** of **God's mercy, compassion**.
 - **God loves them** just as He loved **Nineveh, Jonah, and YOU**.
 - **Only God** decides **when and how** pour out His **salvation, mercy, and wrath**.
 - **Calls you** to **trust Him** and **be merciful as He is merciful**.

Outline of Jonah

Chapters 1 & 2 **GOD COMMISSIONS JONAH TO GO TO NINEVEH**

Chapter 1 Jonah Runs From God Yet is Saved by God

Chapter 2 Jonah Runs to God: Prayer of Repentance

Chapters 3 & 4 **GOD RECOMMISSIONS JONAH**

Chapter 3 Jonah Warns of Judgment and Nineveh Repents

Chapter 4 Jonah Sulks and God Rebukes Him