

Jonah's Rant Against His Merciful God

Jonah 4:1-3

August 20, 2023

¹⁻² Jonah was furious. He lost his temper. He yelled at God, "God! I knew it—when I was back home, I knew this was going to happen! That's why I ran off to Tarshish! I knew you were sheer grace and mercy, not easily angered, rich in love, and ready at the drop of a hat to turn your plans of punishment into a program of forgiveness!"

³ "So, God, if you won't kill them, kill me! I'm better off dead!"

Jonah's response to his merciful God (4:1)

- Scripture is full of raw **emotion**
(John 11:35; 2 Corinthians 1:8-9; Rev. 5:4-5 and 13)

Jonah's complaint against his merciful God (4:2)

- **Angry** prayer is still prayer
- God is explained in the Written Word and **Living** Word
(Exo. 34:6-7; Num. 14:18; Psa. 86:15; 145:8; John 1:18)
- God always acts consistent with His character (Deut. 32:3-4)
- God is **not** like you and me (see also Psalm 50:21)

Jonah's **pity party** about his merciful God (4:3)

- Jonah **hated** God for loving his enemies
(see also Matt. 5:43-48)
- Jonah would rather die than serve an undomesticated God

Four surprising observations about God's prophet

Jonah is out of alignment with God's person and **purposes** .

Jonah's head knowledge didn't transform his heart toward others.

Jonah thought God's mercy was only for his people and nation.

Jonah wanted God's mercy, but no part of His **mission** .

(Other notes that may or may not make it into the sermon when it is preached)

When God spared Nineveh, he preserved them to destroy Israel 50 years later!!! Assyria destroyed Samaria the capital of Israel in 722 BC.

A prayer of commitment *not to respond* like Jonah did . . .

"God, as a recipient of your grace, I will do whatever you call me to do, no matter the cost, to get the gospel to people who have never heard it." (Pastor David Platt)