

Jonah  
God's Heart for People  
Text: Jonah 4:1-11.

Pre-Sermon Bible Reading:  
Jonah 4: 10-11.

But the Lord said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?"

Points:

I. Why did you run, Jonah?

Another reason for Jonah running

A: Jonah's prophecy in 2 kings 14:25: Israel borders will be taken back from Assyria (Nineveh capital).

Jonah proved a legitimate prophet, land from Assyria was reclaimed.

B: God asks Jonah to go to Nineveh (Israel's enemy) and tell them they have done wrong. Jonah knows they will repent and God will have mercy. Jonah runs away.

Life Illustration: Children fighting over a toy.

II. God Seeks to Save the Lost

Jonah is sent by God

A: Nineveh was lost due to their wickedness. Jonah 1:2.

Amos prophesied that Israel would be taken captive by Assyria, and yet...God seeks to save the lost. He wanted to save Nineveh. Amos 5:27.

B: Jonah sent by God. Jonah knows God's saving power. Jonah 4: 1-4.

C: God gave his Son to save us. John 3:16-17.

BWAA Illustration: Cambodia: Church Based Community Development.

III. God Knows our Hearts

Jonah's heart is revealed

A: God knows Jonah's heart and asks the right question to expose it. Jonah 4:4-9.

B: Our hearts are seen by God – Matthew 5:21-22.

BWAA Illustration: Cambodia: Lady Farmer could choose bitterness, but she chose hope.

IV. God loves His Creation

God intimately involved in his creation and loves people, animals, land

A: People made in the image of God. Genesis 1.

B: People called to care for creation: Genesis 2:15.

C: God's heart: Jonah 4:10-11.

BWAA Illustration: Bangladesh: 'Sharif' overcoming disability.

V. You are Part of God's Restoration Plan

God partners with us to share the hope of the gospel and meet people's needs

A: Matthew 28:18-20. Great Commission.

B: Matthew 25:37 - 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

BWAA Illustration: Cambodia: Young Community Group members helping the 'poor', themselves earning less than \$2 USD per day.

VI. Invitation to:

A: Pray

B: Act

C: Give