

“Jonah: A Prophet Who Never Got It” Jonah 4

Sadly, there is no happy ending to the book of Jonah. Having lead what is perhaps the greatest revival in all of history, Jonah descends into anger, bitterness, and misery. So God takes his prophet to task - He exposes the error of Jonah’s way. He reveals the stunning extent of Jonah’s hypocrisy, foolishness, and selfishness. But before we rush to judge Jonah, we must recognize that we are really not so different from him.

I. Jonah’s Unhappy Ending

- Jonah’s shocking anger at God (1-3)
 - v1: “but it was evil to Jonah with great evil and he burned with anger”

Hosea 11:5
They will not return to the land of Egypt; but Assyria—he will be their king because they refused to return to Me.
 - v2: quote of Exodus 34:6-7
 - **gracious** – sparing just harm or giving undeserved blessing
 - **compassionate** – “womb love”
 - **slow to anger** – “long of nostrils”
 - **abounding in loving-kindness** – *hesed*
 - **relents concerning calamity** – 3:10!
 - vv2-3: his point...
“I disobeyed you because I knew you would mess everything up! You’ve ruined my life! It would be better if I were dead!”
- God’s patient instruction (4-11)
 1. Asks the key question (4)
 2. Uses creation to set up the lesson (5-8)
 - v5: the setting
 - v6: gives grace
 - “appoint” – fish (2:1), plant, worm, wind
 - “rejoices with great rejoicing”
 - v7-8: gives justice
 3. Returns to the question (9)

4. *Reveals the lesson (10-11)*

What you care about vs. what I care about

II. Why was Jonah wrong?

- Insisted on mercy for him, justice for others
 - Hypocrisy – we all deserve death!!
- Loved that which had little value
 - Foolishness – it's a plant, Jonah!!
- Loved his own comfort more than the lives of others
 - Selfishness – you care only for yourself!!

III. How do we avoid his error?

- Do you desire mercy for everyone?
 - flagrantly immoral, murderers, terrorists?
 - someone who has hurt or abused you?
- Do you love that which has lasting value?
- Do you love others more than your own comfort?