

Life Lessons on Missing the Point

But Jonah was greatly displeased and became furious. ... Jonah 4:1 (HCSB)

Text: Jonah 4

Topics: Compassion, Judgment

Supplemental Texts: none

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Bro. David Crowe

If you desire to miss the point of life,

- 1) _____ God for who He really is (vs. 1-4)
 - a. *Jonah understood that God was merciful and compassionate, and he was furious about it.*
 - b. *In our world today, many are furious about a God who is Holy and wrathful.*
 - c. *Do you properly love the God who is revealed in scripture?*

- 2) *Desire* _____ *more than compassion (vs. 5-8)*
 - a. *Jonah was more pleased with the plant than he was with the revival of Nineveh.*
 - b. *When the plant withered away, Jonah desired death.*
 - c. *What are the “plants” in your life that care for more than souls?*

- 3) _____ *for the temporal, rather than the eternal (vs. 9-10)*
 - a. *Jonah showed more emotion for a temporal plant than for eternal souls.*
 - b. *Everyone will live forever in heaven or hell.*
 - c. *Do you also care for temporal things more than eternal?*

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message.

- 1) How did Jonah respond to God's goodness to the Ninevites? (4:1)
- 2) What was the attitude of Jonah's prayer? (4:2-3)
- 3) What did God say to Jonah? (4:4)
- 4) What did the distraught prophet do? (4:5)
- 5) How did God deal with Jonah? (4:6-11)
- 6) What did God want Jonah to understand? (4:9-11)
- 7) God was very gracious to Jonah, a pouting, reactive type. How does God deal with your prickly side?
- 8) How does the story of Jonah affect your view of cross-cultural ministry?
- 9) Jonah wanted Nineveh, Israel's enemy, destroyed. When have you wanted revenge rather than restoration in a relationship?
- 10) What hard lesson have you had to learn from God?

Where is Jesus in Jonah 4

Jesus is in every chapter of the Old Testament in some way. Here are some examples of how to see Jesus in this Chapter:

- 1) **Jonah 4:2** Jonah describes God as a God of compassion. Jesus, who is God the Son, demonstrated compassion when he saw that the crowds were as sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:36)
- 2) **Jonah 4:1-2** As God spared the Ninevites who repented, God will also save any, through Jesus, who call on His name (Romans 10:13, John 6:3)
- 3) **Jonah 4:3-9** Jonah wanted to die for temporal things. Paul declared that, "To live is Christ and to die is gain."(Philippians 1:21)
- 4) **Jonah 4:11** God's mercy is shown abundantly in the gospel and in the salvation of Gentiles who deserve nothing (Rom. 9:30-31; 11:30).