

Do We Have a Right?

Jonah 4

"The lessons of this book are many. There are lessons that concern Jonah himself. He is a type of practically everything: a type of Christ (who was buried but who rose again), a type of Israel, a type of all believers (for we all run away from God at times and need to be disciplined). There are lessons that concern Nineveh and the true meaning of repentance. There are lessons relating to the doctrine of God's sovereignty over men and nature.

But greater than all these lessons is the lesson of the greatness of the mercy of God. How great is God's mercy? We have a hymn that says, 'There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.' But even that is not wide enough. The real measure of the wideness of the mercy of God is that of the outstretched arms of the Lord Jesus Christ as he hung on the cross to die for our salvation. That is the wideness of God's mercy. That is the measure of the length to which the love of God will go.

How can we, who have known that mercy and benefited from it, be less than merciful to others? How can we do less than love them and carry the gospel to them with all the strength at our disposal." Boice

- I. Jonah shows us that living God's will is an act of the will. We can either chose to accept his will out of appreciation for his love, grace and mercy toward us, or we can begrudgingly live it with a self-centered, sinful view of God and the circumstances he has us in. *"It is a warning that it is possible to obey God but to do so with such a degree of unwillingness and anger that, so far as we are concerned, the obedience is no better than disobedience." Boice*

Jonah 4:1-3

Eph. 4:26

Exodus 34:6-7

Luke 15:10

Micah 6:8 *He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

- II. God shows us that our outlook on life greatly depends on our outlook on what it means to be the recipients of his grace and mercy toward us. The level of our appreciation shows itself in our attitude toward God, toward self and toward others.

Jonah 4:4-11

- A. Our lack of appreciation for the Lord's loving kindness and mercy toward us and others speaks of a heart that is not fully committed to him and his ways. It shows him that the self-absorbed subjective desires of our heart are much more important to us than the precious desires of his heart.

Jonah 4:4-6

Psalm 139:23-24 ²³ Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

- B. Our lack of appreciation toward knowing him is seen in the "pseudo safe places" we make for ourselves to escape him, our circumstances and the people he has brought into our lives to bless us. It is seen in a bad attitude, the putting up of walls, the refusal to recognize and repent of **toxic behavior** and by the refusal to submit to Christ's lordship. This sinful behavior is like the desert sun baking on our heads making us weaker, more miserable, and more toxic to be around.

Jonah 4:7-9

- C. Our lack of appreciation toward being recipients of his mercy is seen in how we treat others who need the same kind of mercy we received. It shows a willful ignorance toward what it means to be salt and light in a world that is going to hell apart from the saving knowledge of Jesus.

Jonah 4:9-11