

When God Comes Close- Jonah & the Compassion of God

When God Comes Close – Part 4 Jonah
Noah Largent 8/27/23



1 JONAH REJECTS GOD'S MISSION

Jonah 1:2-3 “Go immediately to Nineveh, that large capital

city, & announce judgment against its people because their wickedness has come to my attention.” ³ **Instead, Jonah immediately headed off to Tarshish to escape** from the commission of the Lord.

³ ... Jonah went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After **paying the fare**, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

Flirting, dishonesty, gossip, shirking responsibilities, following misguided priorities, or uncontrolled compulsions...

Sin always has a cost. Sometimes the cost is obvious, sometime subtle. The consequences can effect our relationship with God and others. It can effect our health or finances. They can even put others in peril. Be on guard and bring your temptations & struggles to God without delay.

“Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.” - Pastor Greg Laurie, from his Twitter feed.

2 JONAH'S PRAYER

Jonah 2:1&9 “From inside the fish Jonah prayed, **I called out** to the Lord from my **distress, & he answered me...** From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and **you listened to my cry**.”

3 JONAH AND THE NINEVITES

Jonah 3:5-9 **The people of Nineveh believed in God...** the king of Nineveh... issued a proclamation ... Every person and animal must put on sackcloth and must cry earnestly to God, and **everyone must turn from their evil way ... Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.**”

4 JONAH'S ANGER WITH GOD'S MERCY

Jonah 4:11 God: “should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”



Community Group Questions:

1. What did you hear? What hit home from the message? How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
2. Notice that **Jonah is as lost as the Ninevites**. Jonah is more concerned with others rebellion than **his own**. Can you relate?

One of Jonah's quintessential problems is that he has forgotten God's mercy towards him. Jonah is suffering from a memory power problem. He too has experienced God's mercy, but now he is ill equipped to appreciate God's mercy when he observes it exercised on someone else's behalf. The irony of the story is clear "Jonah now desires to die on account of God's gracious and compassionate nature. Had he himself not benefited from these very attributes, when confronted with his own death in chapter two?"- *Salvation Through Judgement and Mercy* by Bryan D. Estelle pg.126

Notes:
