

June 10, 2018
UBERWHALE: Episode 4
Jonah's Anger At God's Compassion
Jonah 3:10 - 4:11
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

3:10 When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened. 4:1 But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

³Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

⁴But the LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint.

He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live." ⁹

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"

"It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead." ¹⁰But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹And 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?"

Pastor Adam sets up the passage:

NOTES: _____

Jonah 3:10 When God saw, He **relented**.

- **2 Chron 16:9** For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to **strengthen** those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

Jonah 4:2 He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

Jonah gets a teaching moment: Too often our relationship with God is based on how things are going in the moment.

Jonah 4:6 *Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant.*

Jonah 4:8-9 *But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."*

- Jonah has a geography problem, not a God problem. Jonah is never where he is supposed to be.

Anger and Outrage: *But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"*

- Is God angry about what you're angry about, and if so, what good does your anger do to supplement God's?
- **Eph 4:26** *"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.*

What did we learn from Jonah?

Food For The Journey: Use these questions and challenges to go deeper in one of our small groups or in personal reflection.

1. The bible makes it clear that God would rather forgive than judge and punish. Does this truth match the God of your understanding?
2. **2 Chron 16:9** Says that God's eyes look for people fully committed to Him. What does being fully committed to Him mean?
3. Too often our relationship with God is based on how things are going in the moment and how hard is it to live beyond your circumstances?
4. Jonah did not have a God problem, but a geography problem, meaning that he was never where God wanted him to be. He then blamed his circumstances on God. How easy is it for us to do this?
5. Anger allows us to know when our boundaries have been crossed, but when can unrestrained anger be a real issue in our lives?