

# Remarkable Grace

*An Exposition of the Book of Jonah*

Sermon Four: Do You Have Good Reason to be Angry? (Jonah 4)

January 31, 2021

**Opening ILL:** “The vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.” Are you ok with that? Do you actually believe that the vilest offender who truly believes that moment from Jesus a pardon receives? How do you feel about deathbed conversions? How do you feel about a serial killer who repents on his deathbed, dies, and opens his eyes in glory? Does that strike you as...well...wrong? How about this: What about you pick your top 5 list of sinful adjectives and add them all together and then add that to the mix. What if a glue-sniffing, sex-trafficking, wife-beating, drug-dealing, grossly immoral man repented on his death bed, and God forgave him. Would you be angry about that? Would that strike you as a bit wrong? Only if you do not yet understand the remarkable grace of God.

## I. Introduction/Review

- A. What happened in the first 3 chapters of Jonah?
  - 1. Jonah refused to do what God told him to do.
  - 2. Jonah was thrown into the sea because of his defiance.
  - 3. Jonah finally preached judgement against Nineveh and they repented.
  - 4. When they repented, God relented!
  
- B. What is the main idea of the book of Jonah?
  - 1. It is not the reluctance of a wayward prophet.
  - 2. It is the remarkable [scandalous] grace of God.

## II. The Prophet confronts God for his...mercy? vv. 1-4

- A. Jonah was angry that God had mercy on the Ninevites (v. 1)
  - 1. Literally: “Jonah was angry with a great anger”.
    - a) Notice the word “great” again. (גָּדוֹל)
    - (1) We saw this previously in the great storm. [1:12]
    - (2) We saw this in the great fish. [1:17]
    - (3) We saw this previously in the great city. [3:2]
  
- B. Jonah expressed his anger in prayer!! (v. 2)
  - 1. I told you this would happen!
  - 2. You are gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness
    - a) This is not a compliment!
    - b) This is a complaint!
  - 3. You relent concerning calamity.
  
- C. Jonah asks God to kill him. (v. 3)
  - 1. Notice WHY Jonah wants to die—because death is a more pleasant option than the thought that the Ninevites would be blessed by God.
  
- D. God challenges Jonah’s anger! (v. 4)
  - 1. Should you really be getting this angry?

## III. Jonah Resents God’s Remarkable Grace! vv. 5-9

- A. Jonah leaves and builds a shelter
  
- B. The Lord provides shade for Jonah, which rejoices his heart.

1. See v. 6—he was happy with a great [הֵלֵל] happiness!
- C. The Lord removes shade from Jonah, which angers his heart
- D. Jonah once again asks God to kill him! [v. 8]
- E. God asks Jonah a rhetorical question and gets a surprising response!
  1. Do you have a good reason to be this angry?
  2. **ILL:** Parable of the workers in the field—Matthew 20:1-16

#### IV. God Defends His scandalous grace to Jonah vv. 10-11

- A. You have more compassion for a plant than for people.
  1. What was Jonah really focused on? His own comfort.
- B. Shouldn't I have compassion on these people?
  1. Notice the number
  2. Notice their nature
    - a) They don't know their right hand from their left.

#### V. The Book of Jonah abruptly ends.

**Interesting point:** Jonah is one of only 2 books in the Bible that ends with a question. Do you know what the other one is? Nahum? Why is this interesting? Because Nahum is also about Nineveh, and the book talks about how, eventually, this repentance wore off and God did deal with them in their rebellion!

- A. How might we fall into the same attitude as Jonah?
  1. We may forget that we are guilty as sin.
    - a) Let me ask you, sinners, “Where you would be (both literally and spiritually) if Jesus did not save you?”
    - b) Let me ask you, my fellow vile wretches, “In the eyes of a God who sees all, and knows every thought and intent of your heart, what do you deserve?”
    - c) Beloved, we are as guilty as sin. We deserve nothing but Hell.
  2. We may forget what grace feels like.
    - a) Do you remember what it was like when you first experienced God's forgiveness?
    - b) **ILL:** “Grace Abounding” quote—see page 3
  3. We may forget that we are no better than anybody else.
  4. We may forget that we did nothing to deserve God's blessings.
- B. What are we hoping to see in Jonah's attitude? Do we find this?
  1. It depends on your understanding of chapter 2 and when the poetry of chapter 2 was written.
- C. What are we meant to learn from the book of Jonah?
- D. We must be committed to extending grace, not just receiving it.
  1. **Matthew 6:12** And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
  2. **2 Corinthians 1:4** who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

E. That God is truly just to forgive sinners.

1. **Romans 3:26** for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.