

## Jonah 4:1-11(ESV)

<sup>1</sup> But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. <sup>2</sup> And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. <sup>3</sup> Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup> And the Lord said, "Do you well to be angry?"

<sup>5</sup> Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. <sup>6</sup> Now the Lord God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. <sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." <sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup> And the Lord said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> And should not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and so much cattle?"

**Observations and Analyzation**

<sup>1</sup> But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. <sup>2</sup> And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. <sup>3</sup> Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup> And the Lord said, "Do you well to be angry?"

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**Comment [M1]:**

Verse 1:

- But refers to the contrast of the passage to the passage before where the people of Nineveh turned from their evil ways and God didn't release the disaster that was supposed to come upon them.
- Jonah was upset that God didn't destroy the Ninevites. During this time Jonah was being self-centered and hypocritical.

**Comment [M2]:**

Verse 2

- Jonah was upset and he kind of said "I told you so" in a way that Jonah knew that he really didn't have to go to Nineveh because God wasn't going to do anything because God is such an amazing God. Basically he was making an excuse for himself.
- Because God showed steadfast love toward Jonah, Jonah was thankful. But when God showed the same love to the people of Nineveh Jonah was angry.

**Comment [M3]:**

Verse 3

- Jonah is being dramatic and saying that he would rather die than have the Ninevites be forgiven.
- Some questions:
  - Why was he that angry at God?
  - Why did he not want God to forgive them?

**Comment [M4]:**

Verse 5

- Jonah wanted to get out of the town so that God might still want to devastate Nineveh. And so he waited and watched for the city to fall.

**Comment [M5]:**

Verse 6

- The Lord wanted to make an example for Jonah so he made a plant grow and provide shade over his head.
- Verse 7 and 8
- The next day he lets a worm and wind kill the plant.

exceedingly glad because of the plant. <sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." <sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup> And the Lord said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> And should not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and so much cattle?"

**Comment [M6]:**

Verse 7

- Observation he waited a whole day sitting in the booth.

**Comment [M7]:**

Verse 8

- Jonah thought that it was better for him to die than for the plant to die.

**Comment [M8]:**

Verse 10

- God is telling Jonah that he is sad for something that he did not have any input in.

**Comment [M9]:**

Verse 11

- The Lord then asks Jonah why he shouldn't be able to be compassionate towards the Ninevites since Jonah was showing the same compassion toward the plant. God showed compassion towards the people who didn't even know the difference between their right hand and their left, which could be their basic knowledge, saying that they were lost.

**Comment [M10]:**

Verse 11

- God responds and questions if he should give compassion to the animals in the city instead because that is what Jonah is doing.

**Application:**

We should have compassion on others like God. If God shows compassion towards a certain people then we should also have compassion on them.