

Jonah 4  
“*The Example of Jonah*”

~INTRO~

PASTOR JEFF...

- Will be back next week...
- To kick off a study through Exodus!

~READ TEXT~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of [\(Jonah 4\) NKJV](#)

WE SAW IN [\(CHAPTER 1\)](#)...

- The introduction of Jonah's adventure...
- Running From God
  - Falling asleep
    - And needing a storm to capture his attention
- He didn't deny his affiliation with God...
  - He denied his mission from God.

IN [\(CHAPTER 2\)](#)...

- Jonah cries out and prays to the Lord...
- Thanks God for the “*great fish*” that saved him from drowning.
  - Praised God for His mercy & repents from his sin

AS WE STUDIED [\(CHAPTER 3\)](#)...

- We saw the greatest revival in history...
- Jonah was obedient to God and preached the message
  - The people responded to God
    - And turned from their wicked ways

WE LEFT OFF LAST TIME...

- Seeing the abundant mercy of God...
- As he relented from the destruction Jonah predicted.
  - [\(3:10\) NLT](#)

~STUDY~

TODAY WE ARE LOOKING INTO [\(CHAPTER 4\)](#)...

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- Where we see Jonah’s response to the merciful character of God...
  - And how God deals with Jonah.
    - We’ll walk away with some very simple application...
      - As we live with each other in the Body of Christ.

SO NOTE TAKERS...

- I’ve titled today’s message...
  - “*The Example of Jonah*”

LET’S START OFF OUR TIME...

- By reading (Jonah 4:1-4) NKJV

~LET’S PRAY~

HERE’S A FEW THINGS...

- We can take away from tonight’s text...

~IDEA # 1 – “A Different Love” (3:1-4) ~

**A) CHARACTER OF GOD**

GOD CHOOSES TO RESPOND WITH FORGIVENESS...

- And this chapter tells us a lot...
  - About the character of God.
    - (Ezekiel 33:11) NLT

*“As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live...”*

- Jonah explains who God is...
  - Exactly how God describes Himself...
    - (Exodus 34:6-7) NLT

*“The LORD passed in front of Moses, calling out, “Yahweh! The LORD! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty...””*

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- God forgives but doesn't excuse the guilty.

JESUS BRINGS THE HEART OF GOD ALIVE...

- When he teaches the sermon the mount...
- And discusses how the child of God...
- Should view those who are against us.
- [\(Matthew 5:43-48\) NLT](#)

WHY DOES HE TEACH US THIS?

- Because He knows how we typically respond...
- To those who have wronged us.
- We usually have the heart of Jonah.

**B) HEART OF JONAH**

JONAH DOESN'T RESPOND...

- To their repentance in the same way...
- In-fact he responds the opposite way!

GOD'S CHANGE OF HEART...

- Makes Jonah very upset...
- To the point of and angry outburst toward God.
- “*greatly upset*” / “*Displeased*”
- Literally: to break, spoil, be sad.

BUT BEFORE WE RIDICULE JONAH...

- Think about this from his perspective...
- These people we're brutal!
- (Hamas)

HE EMPHASISES SOMETHING INTERESTING HERE...

- He knew God would be compassionate toward these people...
- And he didn't even want to give them a chance!

I THINK WE CAN SIMPLY APPLY THIS...

- To our relationships with each other...
- When we're on the wrong side of an offense.

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WE'RE USUALLY QUICK TO RECEIVE...

- The mercy of God in our lives...
- But slow to extend it to those around us.

WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND...

- Offering forgiveness is intended to **free us**...
- It isn't just letting the other person off the hook.
  - (Forgiveness vs. reconciliation)

DAVID GUZIC SAID ABOUT THIS SECTION...

*“Jonah made 3 errors that angry people often make. Each of these things put Jonah in a worse place and not a better place...”*

*Jonah quit  
Jonah separated himself from others  
Jonah became a spectator”*

**~IDEA #2 – “A Different Motivation” (4:5-9)~**

GOD IS GOING TO GIVE JONAH...

- An object lesson...
- Something tangible to help Jonah understand his folly.

HE PREPARES 3 THINGS...

- That will each speak to Jonah...
- The plant = comfort
- The worm = destruction
- The wind = discomfort

WE CAN CLEARLY SEE...

- He was selfishly motivated by his comforts
- And he wound up having a bad attitude in ministry.

THERE'S SOME SIMPLE APPLICATION HERE...

- Serving the Lord will be hard at times...
- But that doesn't mean that we should give up...
  - Or abandon and leave others to pick up the pieces.

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FIRST OF ALL...

- Remember what David said...
  - When he was given an offering to the Lord...
    - [\(2 Samuel 24:24\) NIV](#)

*"No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing..."*

BUT... WE SHOULDN'T SERVE THE LORD...

- Out of compulsion or obligation...
  - Because that will usually lead to a bad attitude...
    - Like we see with Jonah.

BUT IF YOU'RE SERVING...

- Because you feel like you have to...
  - Instead of understanding that you get to...
    - “*Why?*”

GOD HAS SAVED EACH OF US...

- So we can fulfill our calling...
  - Which include roles within the local church.
    - Turn with me to [\(Romans 12:3-11\) NLT](#)

THE POINT IS...

- When we understand the great love God has shown us...
  - We should respond with a heart of love & gratitude.
- Keeping this perspective will thwart...
  - The bad attitudes that creep into our life.

NEXT GOD EXPLAINS HIS MOTIVIATION...

- In saving the Ninevites...
  - Because he had compassion for them!
    - And we can clearly see a **contrast**.

**~IDEA #3 – “The Different Jonah” (4:10-11) ~**

WHEN WE STARTED THIS STUDY...

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- We mentioned how Jesus validated...
  - The testimony of Jonah.

HOWEVER... HE ALSO USED JONAH...

- As a testimony against those who heard but didn't believe in him...
  - (Matthew 12:41) NLT

*“The people of Nineveh will stand up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, for they repented of their sins at the preaching of Jonah. Now someone greater than Jonah is here--but you refuse to repent.”*

JONAH WAS A PROPHET OF GOD...

- Who didn't want to go and preach to the people...
  - He ran away from his mission.
  - Nor did he offer love & compassion...
    - He wanted to seek revenge.
  - And he didn't seek their repentance or restoration.
    - When they repented – he would have rather died!

LET'S CONTRAST THAT...

- With the “*Greater than Jonah*”
  - (Phil. 2:6-8) NLT

JESUS WAS THE SON OF GOD...

- And he chose to step down from heaven...
- He came with love & compassion...
- He seeks repentance & restoration

LET US FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS...

- Not the example of Jonah!

**~IN CLOSING (WORSHIP TEAM)~**

TODAY IS AN OPPORTUNITY...

- For each us to respond to the undeserved grace of God in our lives...

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- If you're here today...
  - And God has spoken to you tonight...
    - Raise your hand so I can pray with you.