WHEN GOD LOVES YOUR ENEMIES

God's Grace, Love And Mercy Extends Beyond Human Understanding



But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry.² So he prayed to the Lord, and said, "Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore, I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. ³ Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!"

⁴ Then the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city.

⁶ And the Lord God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant. ⁷ But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered.

⁸ And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." ⁹ Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!"

¹⁰ But the Lord said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock.

1. Jonah's Reaction to God

A. Jonah Reacted Childishly

Jonah 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.

Jonah 4:1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. 20 he moved to the Tord and sold ((A)

²So he prayed to the Lord, and said, "Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore, I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.

1. Jonah's Reaction to God

A. Jonah Reacted ChildishlyB. Jonah Reacted Foolishly

³Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!" ⁴So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city.

Ephesians 4:26-27

In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry and do not give the devil a foothold.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT ANGER?

James 1:19-20

So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT ANGER?

1. Anger can lead you to sin.

2. Anger must not to be allowed to win the day.

3. Anger can give grounds for satanic control.

4. Anger do not produce the righteousness of God.

2. God's Response to Jonah

A. God Responded Graciously

Jonah 4:4

Then the Lord said, is it right for you to be angry?

God likes to ask us questions because they reveal our hearts. It also puts us on proper ground before God, because He has every right to question us.

- Where are you? Who told you that you were naked? What is this you have done? (Genesis 3:9-13)
- Where is Abel your brother?
 What have you done? (Genesis 4)
- Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do evil in His sight?
 (2 Samuel 12:9)

- Whom shall I send?
 Who will go for Us? (Isaiah 6:8)
- Who do you say that I am? (Matthew 16:15)
- What do you want Me to do for you? (Matthew 20:32)

Jonah 4:4

Then the Lord said, is it right for you to be angry?

Jonah 4:6

And the Lord God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery.

Jonah 4-8

⁷ But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered.⁸ And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

2. God's Response to Jonah

A. God Responded GraciouslyB. God Responded Reasonably

Jonah 4:9-10

⁹ "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!" ¹⁰ But the Lord said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night.

Jonah made three errors that angry people often make. Each of these things put Jonah in a worse place, not a better place.

- Jonah quit serving God and others.
- Jonah separated himself from others.
- Jonah became a spectator.

Jonah 4:11

And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock.

CHALLENGE

1) Respond to God Humbly

James 4:6 "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble

2) Recognize God Clearly for who He is

3) Resolve to Submit Willingly to His plans