

Jonah 4.1-3: The weak servant
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Jonah 4.1-3: We should listen because we are called to be missionaries, and we are Jonah.

Ch 4 is a curve ball! God has done miraculous things in Nineveh. Ch 3 has ended like every fairy tale. Jonah has all the credentials, he could have written a book, etc.

What happens? Jonah reacts in an amazing way: white hot anger. Literally 'absolutely furious'.

Our success isn't proof of God's endorsement of our character. We must distinguish between gifts of the fruit of the Spirit. Don't idolize your Christian heroes on tv. This is why we have church, real flesh and body community.

Lost Hook: If you are looking into Christianity & are nervous because of bad Christians you know, they are also in the bible. We aren't good, we are sinners, forgiven, **being changed**.

We get angry with God when things don't turn out our way. **He wanted Nineveh gone.** From our finite perspective we think we know what's best. God's more interested in our hearts than our comfort. (Break up of a girlfriend, etc).

1. Jonah's anger is due to God's forgiveness of Nineveh (self righteousness).

Why was he angry? Vs 2-3: Jonah is saying 'I knew you were going to forgive them, and I don't want them forgiven!' I want them dead!

Saved by grace is offensive. But it's our only hope! How many of us have seen others repent and think they must do SOMETHING MORE than just repent? This is the scandal of justification. We say things like 'how could they go free?'

Lost Hook: You may be here, asking how can I be right with God? Like Jonah, and like Nineveh. You repent, and receive his free gift of grace. That's all.

Self righteousness is when we apply standards to ourselves but not to others. We think we are different because of another circumstance, like Israel. The most pious Christian here is in need of as much grace as the most hardened criminal. **My Psych Example.** But what does Jesus say? (**Matthew 7.1**)

Enemies: We think they must do more than we did. How do you feel about your enemies? Doesn't seeing grace enable you to: love, forgive, pray for, turn cheek, leave revenge to God?

2. "Better to die than to live" verse 3 (revealing his idols)

This is a sign of an idol coming down. It's ugly, messy, commotion. We don't give up easily.

When the thing you are living in, trusting in, built your life upon or for comes down eg: cash, job, love of a girl, family, church etc. And your life might as well be over because it's where you get your value and meaning (**often boils down to love and significance**).

Lost Hook: There's one God who will never abandon you and can truly love you.

But this doesn't seem to make sense! Because 2.8-10 is such a contradiction!

1. **Salvation is of the Lord:** This means that Jonah has realized firstly through His life that God is our saver. Despite our sin and wickedness, He initiates and saves.

2. **Let go of our worthless idols to receive grace:** Rather walk through fire with God than on grass on your own. Take the lion's den with God, than the palace on your own.
3. **We should respond in thanksgiving, laying down our lives:** We let the weight of something sink in when we mull over it, meditate on it, thank God for it.
If salvation is really of the Lord, then there is nothing that He cannot ask of you!

Conclusion: Jonah has realized some of these truths. The lesson for us is that he quickly forgot. **We are not computers that get programmed.** We forget and drift and get hard hearted, which his why we need the love of God.

We are to never think that salvation is something that is only past tense. It is past, present and future. **And we are to continually come to Jesus, afresh, standing in his sacrificial death,** drawing near to Him.

We must "stand" in the good news of God's salvation and work out it's implications for our lives. Lest we forget, we break bread and drink wine. **Some drink to forget, we drink to remember.**