

**Jonah 4.4-11: Should I not pity Nineveh?**  
**Redemption Hill Church | Simon Murphy**  
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**STAND** Jonah 4.4-11: **PRAY** We've delved into the amazing twist at the end of the book. Jonah's weaknesses are exposed, **he is truly the flawed servant**, frankly he's pathetic. The world's greatest revivalist maybe, but utterly pathetic. **Typical whining kid.**

**1. God exposes Jonah's wrong priorities**

God challenges Jonah on his self righteousness, 'Do you do well to be angry?' but Jonah doesn't repent of his self righteousness, and goes to see if God will destroy Nineveh.

**Remarkably we see the incredible kindness and love of God (vs 6a) towards this bratty, whiny, selfish child who needs a spanking.** He comes in compassion and love as a Father to comfort him by providing a plant for shade. He is kinder than we deserve. **LOVING!!**

We can't feel validated / secure before God by our circumstances. That is karma, not Christianity. We are **far worse** than we are willing to admit, and **more loved** than we imagine!

**.6b: Exceedingly glad because of the plant.** In contrast to 'displeased Jonah exceedingly'. Only in his own comfort is he pleased, for the first time in the entire book he is finally happy. How small minded can you be! A plant! **We take the small blessings of God and turn them what our lives revolve around. House, car, clothes, holidays, secondary matters.**

**It's the sin of turning secondary blessings into the primary reason for living.** Using God for his gifts, instead of coming to Him as the GIFT. **Missing LIFE's POINT.**

**God is using the plant as a life parable to Jonah.** His love isn't weak or just pacifying, trying to keep us happy. He's interested in sins effects being removed from our lives.

.7-9: God sends a worm, wind and sun to show him the **fleetingness of his earthly temporal comforts.** Don't put your ultimate joy and delight in these things – remember **THE WORM.**

God acts for Jonah's long term good, not his short term comfort. (TYRA AND SWEETS) **He exposes the fleeting temporality of Jonah's joy.** His life is shrunk to **secondary matters.**

**God reveals His priorities (verse 10)**

.10: What should Jonah have cared about? What was on God's heart? Things: which rust and moth destroy and thieves steal? No! **People. Made in image, ETERNAL, separated from Him, but able to be reconciled because of Jesus.**

Jonah cares more about his comforts that what's on God's heart. **God loves PEOPLE!** **Peter's rebuke** was because he 'had in mind the things of men, not the things of God'.

Jonah's life is telling us that life's comforts are more important than men's souls.

**There is a dying world out there Jonah and you care about your little comforts!!! If a man watched his fellow men drowning while enjoying his sundeck, we would call him wicked.**

Jonah hasn't understood God's heart that we love our neighbors as ourselves. **We must care about their wellbeing as though it was us! And what is the highest way to love someone? Their position before God. 'What will it profit a man...'**

**How do I know what Jonah is like?! How can he be so harsh?! I am Jonah. My trivial pursuits!**

BUT! There is someone else to who Jonah points. He is the true and better Jonah who did not live to protect his own comforts.

In fact, He had every comfort and pleasure, and He left the majesty of heaven for us. The King of Glory was born in an animal stable in first century Israel, in a rural town to peasant children. He grew performing manual labour, he had no house, donkey, wife or earthly comforts. No place to rest his head. Instead of protecting his life he took it life in his own hands, laid it down at 33 so that you and I could be reconciled, brought back to our God.

This is how much God loves people. Not just that he tells us to love them, but that He demonstrates it by doing exactly what Jonah didn't do. **And as someone who looks remarkably like Jonah, this is my hope.**

**Because when I receive Christ, embrace Him as my Lord and Saviour, he comes to live in me and I no longer need early comforts to validate my life or find joy in, because I have ultimate comfort in God's love. Jesus is in my heart, and heaven is my home. This means I can say like Paul 'I endure all things for the sake of the elect'**

**JESUS IS THE HERO OF THIS STORY.** And now He comes to you and I today, calling us. Not to follow Jonah and to be like him, but to be like Jesus, to follow in the steps of our master, to lay down our temporal, earthly comforts for the sake of the gospel so that all might hear.