



Jonah or Jesus?

Jonah 4:1-11

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Jonah's Objection (1-5)

Jonah 4:1 But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. 2 He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. (NIV)

Jonah ran from his call to the Ninevites because he was concerned about what God might do for the Ninevites: Give grace instead of judgment!

Jonah's concerns were mainly theological reasons:

How can God be good and just if he does not judge "bad" people?

Exodus 34:6 "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished..." (NIV)

Because God is all good, he is both just and loving, and he both judges and forgives.

Who is "good" and who is "bad," and which one deserves God's forgiveness?

There is good in us – we have Dignity. (Gen. 1:27)

There is bad in us – we have Depravity. (Rom. 3:10, 23)

We all are both "good" and "bad," and none of us deserves God's forgiveness – it is all unearned grace.

Jonah 4:3 Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live." 4 But the LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?" (NIV)

Our anger at God and despair in life can reveal our entitlements and idols.

When we say, "God, if you do not give me _____, I will be angry with you," whatever is in that blank is our idol.

Jonah 4:5 Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. (NIV)

God's Object Lesson (6-11)

Jonah 5:6 Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. 7 But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. 8 When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live." 9 But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead." 10 But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. 11 And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?" (NIV)

Do I have the spirit of Jonah?

Do I focus on comfort more than compassion?

Do I focus on the material more than the spiritual?

Do I focus on the temporal more than the eternal?

Spiritual Maturity: When my concerns are consistent with God's concerns.

How can God be both just and loving at the same time?

How can God both judge sin and forgive sinners?

At the cross of Jesus, the justice of God and the love of God came together in full unity to judge sin and forgive sinners.

My Objective

And should I not have concern for the great city of...Austin? (4:11)

How do I answer that question?

Luke 19:41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it. (NIV)

Am I more like Jonah or Jesus?

My objective is to have the Spirit of Jesus more than the Spirit of Jonah.

Jonah Interacting with God's Word & God's World

Chapters 1 & 3: Jonah interacts with people & their world.

Chapters 2 & 4: Jonah interacts with God & his word.

Chapter Summary Outline of Jonah

Chapter 1	Protesting	Running from God	Disobeying the Call
Chapter 2	Praying	Running to God	Talking to God
Chapter 3	Preaching	Running with God	Obedying the Call
Chapter 4	Pouting	Running against God	Talking to God

Chiastic Parallel Structure Outline of Jonah

- A. Yahweh's Patience with Jonah (1:1-2:10)
 - B. Jonah's Unexplained Disobedience (1:1-3)
 - C. Yahweh Saves the Pagan Sailors (1:4-16)
 - D. Yahweh Saves Jonah (1:17-2:10)
 - C. Yahweh Saves Pagan Nineveh (3:1-10)
 - B. Jonah's Disobedience Explained & Challenged (4:1-11)
- A. Yahweh's Patience with Nineveh (3:1-4:11)

Tim Keller's God's Word, God's World, and God's Grace Outline of Jonah

Scene 1	Scene 2
Jonah, Pagans, and the Sea	Jonah, Pagans, and the City
Jonah and God's Word	
1:1 God's Word comes to Jonah	3:1 God's Word comes to Jonah
1:2 The message to be conveyed	3:2 The message to be conveyed
1:3 The response of Jonah	1:3 The response of Jonah
Jonah and God's World	
1:4 The word of warning	3:4 The word of warning
1:5 The response of the pagans	3:5 The response of the pagans
1:6 The response of their leader	3:6 The response of their leader
1:7-17 How the pagan's response was better than Jonah's	3:7-10 How the pagan's response was better than Jonah's
Jonah and God's Grace	
2:1-10 How God taught grace to Jonah through the fish	4:1-11 How God taught grace to Jonah through the plant