

God of the Second Chance

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“The End?”

October 31, 2020

Jonah 4

- 1 But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry.
- 2 He prayed to the LORD, "O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee 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.
- 3 Now, O LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."
- 4 But the LORD replied, "Have you any right to be angry?"
- 5 Jonah went 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.
- 6 Then the LORD God provided a vine and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the vine.
- 7 But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the vine 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, "Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?" "I do," he said. "I am angry enough to die."
- 10 But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight.
- 11 But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?"

The book of Jonah does not progress nor end like we would expect.

The 1st plot twist:

We are surprised at the prophet's _____ –
Jonah _____ and gets _____.

**Practical application: God uses us in spite of our _____,
flaws, and failures to touch the lives of others in ways we don't
understand and may never _____.**

The 2nd plot twist:

We are surprised at the Lord's _____ –
God demonstrates continued love, patience, and _____.

**Practical application: God has a heart of compassion, mercy, and grace
for all people – Jonah, the sailors, the Ninevites... and even _____!**

The 3rd plot twist:

We are surprised at the story's _____ –
The Holy Spirit purposely leaves the story open _____.

Notice the parallels between the 1st half and the 2nd half of the story

In the 1st half, Jonah is called to preach and runs. (Jonah 1:2)
In the 2nd half, Jonah is called again and obeys. (Jonah 3:2)

In the 1st half, God sends a great wind. (Jonah 1:4)
In the 2nd half, God sends a scorching wind. (Jonah 4:8)

In the 1st half, Jonah is rescued by a fish-miracle. (Jonah 1:17)
In the 2nd half, Jonah is rescued by a plant-miracle. (Jonah 4:6)

In the 1st half, Jonah huddles inside a fish-belly. (Jonah 2:1)
In the 2nd half, Jonah huddles inside a lean-to. (Jonah 4:5)

In the 1st half, God gives Jonah a 2nd chance. (Jonah 3:2)
In the 2nd half, God gives the Ninevites a 2nd chance. (Jonah 3:5)

***AT THE END OF JONAH 2, JONAH IS COMMISSIONED BY GOD TO
PREACH A LIFE-CHANGING MESSAGE TO A LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE.***

***AT THE END OF JONAH 4, IS IT POSSIBLE THAT JONAH IS
COMMISSIONED AGAIN BY GOD TO BRING ANOTHER LIFE-CHANGING
MESSAGE TO ANOTHER LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE?***

**WHO ARE THOSE _____
AND WHAT IS THE _____?**