



May 17th Hugh Barlett

Jonah 4 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. ² And he prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. ³ Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the Lord said, “Do you do well to be angry?” ⁵ Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. ⁶ Now the Lord God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” ⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Do you do well to be angry for the plant?” And he said, “Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ And the Lord said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”

Repentance means relinquishment & realignment

Anger seeps in & seethes in his soul

- **Demeaning: I told you so**
- **Demanding: I want my way**
- **Moody in the moment: Delighted, Despairing**
- **Argumentative: Stubborn**
- **Blinded to the bigger picture**

God asks us to surrender our control

God invites us to a deeper trust

God calls us to a wider mercy

How do we see anger in our own life?

Why is it so hard to relinquish control of circumstances?

How does God use blessing and difficulties to renew our hearts?

How is God’s compassion to Nineveh so challenging to Jonah?

How has God opened your eyes to your own need for mercy?

How has God begun to realign us with His mission of making disciples and restoring all things in heaven and earth?





May 10th, Rev. Hugh Barlett

Jonah 4: 1-4 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. ² And he prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. ³ Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the Lord said, “Do you do well to be angry?”

The Lord renews our hearts

Wrestling against God wears us out

God’s questions uncover our hearts

Jonah knew but did not know God

Dealing with our displeasure

- **How have you been displeased with something God did? How did you come to accept it?**
- **How could Jonah represent the way Israel felt toward the nations?**
- **Notice how honest Jonah is with God in his prayer. Why is it hard to be so authentic in our prayer life?**
- **Anger tends to amplify our disappointment. How does Jonah show this in this passage?**
- **How does God’s question impact Jonah? Can you think of other questions God has in the Bible?**
- **Why does God challenge us to reflect on our life?**