

“God’s Cure for Bad Attitudes”

Jonah 4:1–11

I. Disappointment is a recipe for a bad attitude.

Jonah 4:1–2 — *“¹ But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, “Please Lord, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.”*

A. Understand that disappointment is part of daily life.

1. The greater the disappointment the harder it is to get over it.
2. Jonah was greatly displeased (disappointed) because he did not get his way
3. Then displeasure turned to anger with God.

B. Jonah was angry with God’s mercy.

1. **Question:** Did the Ninevites really get away without paying for their violence and wickedness?
 - a. No sin will ever go unpunished or unpaid. **Ezekiel 18:4** — “Behold, all souls are Mine; .. The soul who sins will die.”
 - b. Scripture says that the Messiah would come to pay for every sin (including the Ninevites). **Isaiah 53:5**

C. His bad attitude was robbing Jonah of reason to live.

v3 *“Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life.” ⁴ The Lord said, “Do you have good reason to be angry?”*

1. When one’s hopes are dashed, life sometimes loses its meaning.
2. **Question:** What do we do when we don’t feel like living?
3. **Solution:** Pour you heart out to God like David in the Psalms. And finish like Jesus, **“But not my will be done, but Yours.”**

D. Jonah stayed to see if Nineveh’s repentance was temporary.

v5 *Then Jonah went out from the city and sat east of it. There he made a shelter for himself and sat under it in the shade until he could see what would happen in the city.*

1. Jonah still had hope that God would give out justice.
2. Maybe these Ninevites might quickly go back to their evil ways and the Lord will have to destroy them as was first the plan.

II. God prepares an object lesson for Jonah:

- A. **God provides a temporary blessing v6** - the shady plant.
- B. **God allows a disappoint to come v7** – the hungry worm.
- C. **God adds extreme weather conditions v8** - scorching heat.

III. God shows Jonah that He had no right to be angry.

v9 *Then God said to Jonah, “Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?” And he said, “I have good reason to be angry, even to death.” **10** Then the Lord said, “You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight.”*

A. Jonah’s anger was rooted in selfish motives.

1. He had more love and compassion for a shady plant than for the souls of people.
2. **Application:** We need to be emotionally invested in the things of God rather than self-serving ventures.

B. God’s compassion was rooted in his love for sinners:

v11 *“Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?””*

THINK, PRAY and OBEY:

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