

# Jonah's Bitterness vs God's Grace

## Jonah Chapter 4, Part VI

Okay then, let's do this! Let's close out Jonah! This is our 6<sup>th</sup> lesson. It took us 1 ½ months!

Last week I closed by saying our witness needs to be compelling if we are going to help convert anybody! We might ask "why", if it is God Who does all the work. While that is true, people still have to make a choice, a decision as it were, for Christ. There are things that push people closer to God and things that push people further from God.

1a) Briefly, what attracts people to God?

1b) What repels people from God?

**Jonah chapters 1 - 4 = 48 verses**

====Quick review =====

(Personal review)

2) Do you see God chastising you for something in the near future?

***Jonah 3:10 'Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.'***

God can and will relent, think about that.....

***Jonah 4:1-3 'But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry. And he prayed unto the Lord, and said, I pray thee, O Lord, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil. Therefore now, O Lord, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.'***

3) Why is Jonah angry?

We have the obvious answers. They are his enemies. How crazy. A Person literally personally converts, or at least leads, an entire city, maybe nation, to a temporary repentance. Talk about a revival --- and he hates it, even to death.

4) How can a person be a follower of Christ, yet never have a heart change?

=====Jonah is revered by three religions =====

**Jonah 4:4-8**

I can think of another prophet who asked to die.... Elijah in *1 Kings 19* says he is better off dead.

What is grace? (Grace Notes)

Throughout this whole story, God shows He is sovereign over all creation as well as the elements. If Jonah is witnessing all this.... If Jonah knows his people are being attacked.... And if these people change, it could possibly be helpful. If he sees with his own eyes, God's power.

You don't look at your sin the way you look at other people's.

Does Jonah ever consider that God may have a plan?.....

How does he miss leaning into God's grace?.....

Good question. Better yet,

If you know God's power.....

If we know God's power.....

Imagine leaning into God's grace. What could that do?

5) Why do people refuse to forgive?

### ***Jonah 4:10***

Selfishness seems to be a problem of Jonah's. Who do you need to forgive?....

The point is, the offense in many cases means more to us than God's grace. Or maybe you want to forgive but don't know how...

What does God say about the enemy of His people?

***Jonah 4:10-11 'Then said the Lord , Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?'***

God here shows ("*should not I spare*") that His grace extends to all people, even cattle. I dare say... dogs and kitties too...

6) Forgiveness and showing grace are choices. What prevents you.....? (honest introspection)

Let's pray.

**Next Tuesday Bible Study - "Grace, Part 1"**