

Jonah: The Grumpiest Missionary

Week 11: Jonah 4:5-4:11

Verse 5

וַיֵּצֵא יוֹנָה מִן־הָעִיר וַיֵּשֶׁב מִקְדָּם לָעִיר וַיַּעַשׂ לּוֹ שָׁם סֹכָה וַיֵּשֶׁב תַּחְתֶּיהָ בַּצֵּל עַד אֲשֶׁר יֵרְאֶה מִה־יִּהְיֶה בָּעִיר:

So Jonah went out from the city and he sat down east of the city. And he made for himself there a shelter and he sat down underneath it, in the shadow of it until he might see what would happen to the city.

Verse 6

וַיִּמַן יְהוָה־אֱלֹהִים קִיקְיֹון וַיַּעַל מֵעַל לַיּוֹנָה לְהַזְוֹת צֶלַעַל־רֵאשׁוֹ לְהַצִּיל לוֹ מִרְעָתוֹ וַיִּשְׂמַח יוֹנָה עַל־הַקִּיקְיֹון שְׂמִתָּה גְדוֹלָה:

Then the LORD God appointed a plant and caused it to grow up over Jonah for being a shade over his head, to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah rejoiced on account of the plant—a great joy.

Verse 7

וַיִּמַן הָאֱלֹהִים תּוֹלַעַת בַּעֲלֹת הַשָּׁחַר לְמַחֲרַת וַתִּפֹּד אֶת־הַקִּיקְיֹון וַיִּיבֹשׁ:

But God appointed a worm at the going up of the dawn on the next day to strike the plant and it dried up.

Verse 8

וַיְהִי כַּזֶּרֶחַ הַשָּׁמֶשׁ וַיִּמַן אֱלֹהִים רוּחַ קָדִים חַרִּישִׁית וַתִּפֹּד הַשָּׁמֶשׁ עַל־רֵאשׁוֹ יוֹנָה וַיִּתְעַלֶּף וַיִּשְׁאַל אֶת־נַפְשׁוֹ לָמוּת וַיֹּאמֶר טוֹב מוֹתִי מִחַיִּי:

And it happened that, as the sun rose, and God appointed a sharp east wind. And the sun struck upon the head of Jonah and he became faint. So he asked for his life to die and said, "Good is my death from my life" (Hebrew's way of "It's better for me to die than to live").

Verse 9

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־יוֹנָה הֲהֵיטֵב תַּרְהֵלֶךָ עַל־הַקִּיקְיֹון וַיֹּאמֶר הֵיטֵב תַּרְהֵלֶךָ לִי עַד־מוֹת:

And God said to Jonah, "Is it right that anger is to you on account of the plant?" And he said, "It is right that anger is mine, even to the point of death!"

Verse 10

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אַתָּה חֹסֵף עַל־הַקִּיקְיֹון אֲשֶׁר לֹא־עָמַלְתָּ בּוֹ וְלֹא גִדַּלְתָּ שָׂבֹב־לִילָהּ הֲיֵה וּבֹב־לִילָהּ אֶבֶד:

So the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant which you did not work at it and you did not make it grow. In one night, it was, and in one night, it perished.

Verse 11

וַאֲנִי לֹא אָחֹס עַל־נִינְוָה הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה אֲשֶׁר יֵשְׁבֶהָ הֲרַבָּה מִשְׁתִּים־עֶשְׂרֵה רַבּוֹ אֲנִים אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָדְעוּ בֵּין־יָמֵינוּ לְשִׂמְאֵלוֹ וּבְהֵמָה רַבָּה:

Should I not also be concerned for Nineveh, the great city, in which there are two-and-ten ten thousand people who do not know (the difference) between their right and their left, and also many animals?

1. Last week, we ended with God asking Jonah if he had a right to be angry. Verse 5 is Jonah's answer. Comment on and discuss his "answer."

2. Notice all the "appointing" that is happening in these verses; does that remind you of something else in Jonah, perhaps something big?
 - a. What does that tell you about these things that the Lord is sending into the life of Jonah?

3. What did God want to teach Jonah about his judgment and mercy with the three items he gave?

4. How would you characterize the tone of the Lord's final speech to Jonah?

5. Again, Jonah is angry enough to die. Yet, this time things are different. What kind of anguish is plaguing Jonah in these verses? What kind of pain was plaguing Jonah in the previous section?

6. Evaluate this statement: we learn more in life from our disappointments than from our blessings.

7. What do we make of the ending of Jonah? It ends with a question, like a number of Jesus' parables; there's this little bit about the animals along with the people not knowing their right from their left (by the way, it could be that there were more than 120,000 people and that number was just the "lower class"); at any rate, Jonah ends on a giant cliffhanger! How would you finish the story if you were given the ability to do so?

Closing Prayer 838 The Will of God Is Always Best v. 1

**The will of God is always best and shall be done forever;
and they who trust in him are blest; he will forsake them never.
He helps indeed in time of need; he chastens with forbearing.
They who depend on God, their friend, shall not be left despairing. Amen.**