

# POWER HOUR

11/17/2024

Lesson Text:  
Jonah 4:1-11

Background Scripture:  
Exodus 34:4-8; 1 Kings 19:4-8

Devotional Reading:  
Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 15:25-30

“JONAH IS ANGRY WITH GOD”

NLT TRANSLATION

**Golden Text:** *The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. Psalms 103:8 NLT*

**Time:** 780 B.C.

**Place:** Nineveh and vicinity

## Jonah 4:1-11 NLT

**1** This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. **2** So he complained to the Lord about it: “Didn’t I say before I left home that you would do this, Lord? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people. **3** Just kill me now, Lord! I’d rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen.” **4** The Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry about this?” **5** Then Jonah went out to the east side of the city and made a shelter to sit under as he waited to see what would happen to the city. **6** And the Lord God arranged for a leafy plant to grow there, and soon it spread its broad leaves over Jonah’s head, shading him from the sun. This eased his discomfort, and Jonah was very grateful for the plant. **7** But God also arranged for a worm! The next morning at dawn the worm ate through the stem of the plant so that it withered away. **8** And as the sun grew hot, God arranged for a scorching east wind to blow on Jonah. The sun beat down on his head until he grew faint and wished to die. “Death is certainly better than living like this!” he exclaimed. **9** Then God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry because the plant died?” “Yes,” Jonah retorted, “even angry enough to die!” **10** Then the Lord said, “You feel sorry about the plant, though you did nothing to put it there. It came quickly and died quickly. **11** But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness, not to mention all the animals. Shouldn’t I feel sorry for such a great

city?"

## **INTRODUCTION**

How much do we allow our emotions to govern our actions? Part of spiritual growth is learning to control our emotions and to live according to the teachings of God's Word. God understands our emotional swings and helps us with them. When we look at some of the main characters in the Bible, we see plenty of emotional issues. Moses never seemed to get his temper under control. Spiritual giants like Moses, Elijah, and Jeremiah experienced severe depression over what they faced. In each case, God communicated that He was using them for His purpose. They were simply to carry on in faith. Sometimes that is very difficult to do. If the story of Jonah had ended after chapter 3, we would find a satisfying climax to Jonah's ministry. His emotions took control of him, however; the rest of that story is found in this last chapter.

## **POINTS TO PONDER**

1. Be open to submitting your prejudices and wrong motives to God's correction as you work for Him (Jonah 4:1).
2. God loves all people, and His mercy is available to anyone who will repent and believe (Jonah 4:2-4).
3. God meets us where we are and uses our circumstances to teach us about Himself (Jonah 4:5-8).
4. Uncontrolled anger poisons our hearts and destroys our witness (Jonah 4:9).
5. Approach the lost realizing that you too are a recipient of God's mercy (Jonah 4:10).
6. We can be confident that God pities and loves the people He uses us to witness. (Jonah 4:11).

## **CONCLUSION**

The book of Jonah gives us a greater understanding of God's all-embracing love, which includes us. If you have never responded to God's love by trusting in Christ as your Savior, I urge you to do so today. As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we should express our thanks to God for embracing us with His love. Expressing our thanks just today is not enough. We need to thank Him every day.

## QUESTION(S)

- What particular evidence do we have for the Holy Spirit's inspiration for this book?
- What was Jonah's surprising reaction to Nineveh's repentance?
- What did Jonah rightly say about God?
- After repeating why he had run from God in the first place, what did Jonah request of Him?
- How did Jonah respond to God's first question?
- What made Jonah grateful, and why did his gratitude evaporate?
- How did God increase Jonah's discomfort after the plant died?
- What was God's second question, and how did Jonah respond?
- What contrast did God make between His attitude and Jonah's?
- What lesson should we take from the book of Jonah?

## ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is "*Jesus Points to Jonah*" We will look at a passage in the book of Matthew where Jesus refers to Jonah's three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish.

Lesson Text: *Matthew 12:22-32, 38-40*

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