

Understanding the Book of Jonah: Are You Right to Be Angry?
Jonah 4 :1-11 (p. 984)

Intro

Anger is a natural response to perceived _____, whether it is warranted or not—but
are you _____ to be angry?

I. Deep-seated, _____ anger can drive our behavior...

The Book of Jonah begins with the Lord calling Jonah to go to _____, but
Jonah _____.

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord. (1:1-3)

Nineveh was the capital city of the _____, known for their exceeding
_____.

Jonah’s disobedience was _____ and deliberate, but he was not able
to _____ the presence of the Lord.

But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid....And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.... He said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.” So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.... And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. (1:4-17)

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. (Ps. 139:7-10)

From the belly of the fish Jonah _____ on his experience and _____
to the Lord a second time.

Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, saying, “I called out to the Lord, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your breakers and your waves passed over me. Then I said, ‘I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.’ The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head. To the roots of the mountains I went down, to the land whose bars closed upon me forever. Yet you brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God. When my life was fainting away, I remembered the Lord, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the Lord!” And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land. (2:1-10)

The Lord again called Jonah to Nineveh; this time he _____, and the people of Nineveh _____.

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord.... And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, remove his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.... When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it. (3:1-10)

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. 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. v.1,2

Underneath the surface, there was already anger and _____ in Jonah's heart toward the people of Nineveh and toward the _____.

II. Resulting in _____, pettiness, and not reflecting the Lord's _____ in our lives.

Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." v.3

When our _____ is brought into the light, it provides the opportunity to _____ it and repent of it.

And the Lord said, "Do you do well to be angry?"

Sometimes the Lord will bring our anger to the _____ to enable us to repent of it; sometimes we need saving, and sometimes we need _____.

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. 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. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. 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." v.5-8

Sometimes we _____ our anger to ourselves and to others, but is your life _____ the grace and compassion of the Lord?

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." 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. 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?" v.9-11

In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, began to reign in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years. And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. He restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, which he spoke by his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher. (2 Kings 14:23-25)

...know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him. Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds and be silent. Offer right sacrifices and put your trust in the Lord. (Ps. 4:3-5)

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger and give no opportunity to the devil. (Eph. 4:26,27)

Refrain from anger and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. (Ps. 37:8)

...let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. (James 1:19,20)

Jonah's deliverance was a _____ of the grace and compassion of God ultimately revealed in the death and _____ of Christ.

"I called out to the Lord, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.... The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head. To the roots of the mountains I went down, to the land whose bars closed upon me forever. Yet you brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God. When my life was fainting away, I remembered the Lord, and my prayer came to you.... Salvation belongs to the Lord!" (2:2-9)

"An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (Mt. 12:38-40)

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Nineveh was the capital city of the Assyrians, known for their exceeding wickedness.

Jonah’s disobedience was intentional and deliberate, but he was not able to escape the presence of the Lord.

But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid....And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.... He said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.” So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.... And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. (1:4-17)

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The Lord again called Jonah to Nineveh; this time he obeyed, and the people of Nineveh repented.

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord.... And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, remove his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.... When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it. (3:1-10)

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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. 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. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. 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." v.5-8

Sometimes we justify our anger to ourselves and to others, but is your life demonstrating the grace and compassion of the Lord?

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Jonah's deliverance was a sign of the grace and compassion of God ultimately revealed in the death and resurrection of Christ.

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