

Do We Share God's Compassion for the Lost?

Jonah 4:1-11

August 27, 2023

BACKGROUND Jonah is “very mad” about God’s mercy to Assyria

1. God and Jonah in dialog (part one) 1 – 4
 - a. Jonah rants against God’s compassion and wants to die
 - b. God **questions** Jonah “Is your heart right with mine?”

NOTE: If Jonah repents & moves toward God the story ends here.

2. God and Jonah in dialog (part two) 5 – 9a
 - a. Jonah goes **silent**, isolates himself and moves away
 - b. God pursues and **provides** a vine, worm and wind
 - c. Initially “*very glad*” Jonah for the 2nd time wishes to die
 - d. God asks, “Is your heart with mine or the **plant**?”

3. God and Jonah in dialog (part three) 9b – 11
 - a. Jonah still cannot **reconcile** God’s mercy and justice
 - b. God explains His mercy and questions the Jonah’s reader

The LORD said, “Do you really think that I, the sovereign Creator of all people, would not be concerned for (have compassion on) the people I have made, and for their livelihood?” *paraphrased*

Jonah

He wanted to die **instead of** seeing others escape God’s judgment.

Jesus (Mark 10:45)

He would die **in order that** others could escape God’s judgment.

We need Jesus to save us from our lack of compassion.

Recommended resource: sermons on Jonah by David Platt, May 2023

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