

Jonah: A Man On The Run

Chapter 4— Jonah Runs Into God

The **compassion** that **infuriates** Jonah

📖 *Jonah 3:10–4:2 (NIV84) “When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, He had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction He had threatened. ^{4:1} But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD, “O Lord, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.”*

📖 *Exodus 34:6-7a (NIV84) “...“the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.”*

📖 *1 Timothy 2:3–4 (NIV84) “This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

📖 *2 Peter 3:9b (NIV84) “...He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”*

📖 *Jonah 4:3–4 (NIV84) “Now, O LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ But the LORD replied, “Have you any right to be angry?”*

The **instruction** that **irritates** Jonah

📖 *Jonah 4:5–6 (NIV84) “Jonah went out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ Then the LORD God provided a vine and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the vine.”*

📖 *Jonah 4:7–8 (NIV84) “But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the vine so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.”*

📖 *Jonah 4:9 (NIV84) “God said to Jonah, “Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?” “I do,” he said. “I am angry enough to die.”*

The **question** that **implicates** Jonah

📖 *Jonah 4:10-11 (NIV84) “But the LORD said, “You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?”*

The Questions in the Question:

1. Are you more interested in your **comfort** than God's **compassion**?
2. Are you more concerned about **plants** than **people**?
3. Are you more invested in **earthy** things than you are in **spiritual** things?

Digging Deeper: Did you run into God today? Who does God want to save that you don't currently care about? Is your happiness more important than what is on God's heart? What are you storing up in heaven? What is God calling you to do that is out of your comfort zone? Are you mad at God about something? —is your anger toward Him getting in the way of you seeing Him or doing something for Him?