

**February 17, 2016**  
**“Reassurance: God’s Mercy”**  
**Jonah 4**

- I. A Backsliding Prophet *“But Jonah was greatly displeased and became furious.”* (1) *“The Lord asked, ‘Is it right for you to be angry?’”* (4, 9)
  - A. Surface obedience doesn’t immediately cure inward rebellion *“That’s why I fled toward Tarshish in the first place.”* (2)
  - B. God’s will doesn’t necessarily conform to our desires *“I knew that you were a merciful and compassionate God, slow to become angry, rich in faithful love, and One who relents from sending disaster.”* (2b)
  - C. Failure to trust God will result in failure *“And now, Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”* (3)
  
- II. A Broken Plant
  - A. Jonah distanced himself from God’s work *“Jonah left the city and sat down east of it. He made himself a shelter there and sat in its shade to see what would happen to the city.”* (5)
  - B. Jonah focused on his comfort *“Then the Lord God appointed a plant, and it grew up to provide shade over Jonah’s head to ease his discomfort. Jonah was greatly pleased with the plant.”* (6)
  - C. Jonah’s emotions were controlled by circumstances *“When dawn came the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, and it withered. <sup>8</sup> As the sun was rising, God appointed a scorching east wind. The sun beat down so much on Jonah’s head that he almost fainted, and he wanted to die. He said, “It’s better for me to die than to live.”* (7-8)
  
- III. A Brilliant Pronouncement *“So the LORD said, “You cared about the plant, which you did not labor over and did not grow. It appeared in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> Should I not care about the great city of Nineveh, which has more than 120,000 people who cannot distinguish between their right and their left, as well as many animals?”* (10-11)

- A. God wants us to see people as He sees them**
- B. God wants us to value people over things.**
- C. God wants us act with a view toward eternity**

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