

An Unlikely Object Lesson On Compassion

Jonah 1-2

What are your dreams? Defines your passion.

What angers you most? What do you cry about? Reveals your heart.

Jewish Dreams: Throughout the Old Testament, we read about Israel's desire for a homeland for God's chosen people the Jews.

Jewish Anger: They hated their enemies and anything not Jewish with a vengeance.

Lessons on Compassion from Jonah.

Sept. 2 Jonah 1—*An Unlikely Object Lesson On Compassion*

Sept. 9 Jonah 2—*All Grace Is Undeserved*

Sept. 16 Jonah 3—*What's In Your Wallet?*

Sept. 23 Jonah 4—*How To Do Compassion*

1. Background - Jonah and Nineveh**Book of Jonah**

Some regard Jonah as an **allegory**, a complex parable.

Scripture and Jesus regard Jonah as **real**, historical, and **prophetic**.

God's Message to Jonah,

Go to **Nineveh**.

Nineveh was the capitol of Israel's **enemy**, the Assyrians.

2. God Speaks**2 times God speaks, "Go to Nineveh."**

"Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." —Jonah 1:2

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." —Jonah 2:1-2

God continues to speak **to us**.

(Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:8)

2 times God asks Jonah, "Do you have right to be angry?"

But the LORD replied, "Have you any right to be angry?" —Jonah 4:4

But 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." —Jonah 4:9

We are often hurt and angry.

Do you have any right to be angry? YES.

But God is a God of compassion.

God calls us to **forgiveness**.

God **sends** us on missions of compassion.

I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. —Jonah 4:2b

God's 5th word to Jonah serves as a summary, conclusion, and lesson of the book of Jonah.

3. Compassion lesson #1 - Compassion weighs **more** than our comfort.

Compassion for the lost weighs more on the heart of God than our creature comforts.

- Whoever the **lost** may be,
- However they have **sinned**, and
- However they have wounded and **hurt** us.

God's 5th reply:

¹⁰But 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. ¹¹But 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?" —Jonah 4:10-11

God **does not** delight in the destruction of the wicked.

Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?' —Ezekiel 33:11

God seeks transformation, **reconciliation**, and salvation.

Where is God sending you? _____

Who needs the compassion of God through you today? _____

Memory Verse:

The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: ²"Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."

—Jonah 1:1-2