



**Jonah – Final**  
**Sermon Discussion Questions – Feb. 26th**

***Scripture Passages:***

**Jonah 4:1-3 (NIRV)** “But to Jonah this seemed very wrong. (Some translations say “displeased”) He became angry. 2 He prayed to the Lord. Here is what Jonah said to him. “Lord, isn’t this exactly what I thought would happen when I was still at home? That is what I tried to prevent by running away to Tarshish. I knew that you are gracious. You are tender and kind. You are slow to get angry. You are full of love. You are a God who takes pity on people. You don’t want to destroy them.”

**Jonah 4:3-5 (NIRV)** “Lord, take away my life. I’d rather die than live. But the Lord replied, ‘Is it right for you to be angry?’ Jonah had left the city. He had sat down at a place east of it. There he put some branches over his head. He sat in their shade. He waited to see what would happen to the city.”

**Deuteronomy 4:31 (NIV)** “For the Lord your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your ancestors, which he confirmed to them by oath.”

**Psalms 103:8-12 (NIV)** “The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”

**Exodus 22:27 (NIV)** "I am compassionate."

**Jonah 4:8-9 (NIRV)** When the sun rose, God sent a burning east wind. The sun beat down on Jonah's head. It made him very weak. He wanted to die. So he said, "I'd rather die than live." 9 But God spoke to Jonah. God said, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "It is," Jonah said. "In fact, I'm so angry I wish I were dead."

**Jonah 4:10-11 (NIRV)** 10 "But the Lord said, "You have been concerned about this plant. But you did not take care of it. You did not make it grow. It grew up in one night and died the next. 11 And shouldn't I show concern for the great city of Nineveh? It has more than 120,000 people. They can't tell right from wrong. Nineveh also has a lot of animals."

**Romans 1:16 (NIV)** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

### **Warm Up:**

This series has been focused on the story of Jonah, which is a crazy, unbelievable but true story. Just for fun, what are some crazy, unbelievable stories that have happened in your own life or that you have witnessed firsthand?

### **Discussion:**

1. Over the past couple weeks as we've been talking about Jonah, what have you learned about him that you didn't know before? How are you and Jonah alike?
2. Tori paints a picture about how things could have looked very different had Jonah not got on the boat to Tarshish & went straight to Nineveh like he was supposed to. Have you walked through a season in your life where you chose to rebel instead of doing what you knew you should have done all along? How did this experience of going off track shape your life & your current walk with God?
3. Read Jonah 4:1-3 about Jonah's prayer to the Lord. Has God ever given someone else favor when you didn't think they deserved it? When God favors the undeserving, how do you respond to it? Why do you think that is?
4. In Jonah 4:4, after Jonah's prayer where he was so displeased with God for being merciful to Nineveh that he asked to die, God says "Is it right for you to be angry?". Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you were angry with God for doing something that you didn't feel was right? If so what was that like?
5. How has God shown your enemies mercy when they didn't deserve it? Also, how has he shown you mercy when you didn't deserve it?
6. Tori shared verses 8-12 of Psalm 103 which tells us about how compassionate and gracious God is.

How can we be more like him in that way? What are some practical ways that you can cultivate an attitude of compassion in your own life? Who in your life might God be challenging you to show compassion to?

7. This week's sermon teaches us a lot about God's character and also about the character we sometimes lack.

What kind of character do you have? If you were Jonah, how would you have reacted to God's mercy on the Ninevites?

8. As you think back on this series on Jonah, what has been your biggest take away? What have you found the most challenging or encouraging as you have studied this story more closely?

**Next Steps:**

Victoria ended her message by talking about the incredible compassion God has on us. She went on to challenge us to consider this: *What breaks your heart? What do you weep for? I'm not talking about crying when your sports team doesn't win the super bowl - I'm talking about deep compassion and a deep sorrow for the things of God.*

As you reflect on this what person or people come to mind? What might it look like for you to weep for those people? What might it mean for you to show those people that God is a God of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in love?

This week, take some time pray for and show compassion to one person God brings to your mind.