

“I KNEW THIS WAS GONNA HAPPEN!”

**Jonah 4:1** *But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup> Now, O LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”*

<sup>4</sup> *But the LORD replied, “Have you any right to be angry?”*

<sup>5</sup> *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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the vine so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>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.”*

<sup>9</sup> *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.”*

<sup>10</sup> *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. <sup>11</sup> 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?”*

### 1. GOD HAS A HEART FOR ALL KINDS OF SINNERS

### 2. JONAH’S HEART WAS NOT YET ALIGNED WITH GOD’S HEART

- *God’s heart is to pursue His enemies; Jonah’s heart was to run the opposite direction and put distance between them*
- *God’s heart is to rescue and redeem wicked people; Jonah’s heart is to see them burn*

- *God warns lost sinners in hopes they will turn to Him and be forgiven; Jonah gives warnings in hopes God will carry them out*
- *God’s heart is to rejoice in reclaiming rebels for Himself; Jonah’s heart is to sulk and be depressed because God showed them mercy*

### 3. GOD WANTS RESCUED PEOPLE TO SHARE HIS HEART FOR RESCUING OTHERS WHO ARE LOST

“Found People Find People”

Getting at Jonah’s Heart: God’s Strategy

- a. He asks him a series of questions meant to get Jonah thinking about his motives
- b. He arranges an object lesson that exposes Jonah’s heart
- c. He establishes His sovereign rights as Creator
- d. He reveals His own heart of compassion for lost people

TOO MANY TIMES GOD’S PEOPLE ARE ALL UPSET ABOUT THE WRONG THINGS!

**“Shall I not be concerned about that great city?”**

#### Questions for Application:

*Do you sometimes wonder if God could ever use YOU to do His work?*

*Do you ever like Jonah find yourself getting all upset about the wrong things? Do you allow concerns about your own comfort to override concern for the eternal fate of people who are far from God?*

*Have you ever in your life received God’s mercy and accepted His salvation, offered through Jesus?*

“Salvation belongs to The Lord”