

# God Sovereignly Loves Us despite Human Unfaithfulness

## Jonah 4

### 1. Unrighteous Anger of Humankind (vv. 1-4)

Jonah is thankful to receive God's mercy in saving him from drowning in the sea (Jonah 2), but he is resistant to that mercy being extended to Nineveh, for this mercy has always been restricted to the Israelites as far as he can see. Jonah was angry at God for sparing the people of Nineveh.

We will likely struggle with feeling angry and bitter with God at times due to difficult circumstances that we face in our lives. However, when we struggle with such feelings we should not blame God or be angry at Him rather we need to trust His character and know that the problems we face are due to the consequences of our own choices and living in a sinful world.

- How can I deal with anger, stress and bitterness in my life in healthy ways?
- How can I grow in my trust in God and His character?

### 2. The Sovereignty of God (vv. 5-8)

God's sovereignty is a very important theme not only in this chapter but in the Book of Jonah as a whole, both in Jonah's life and in the lives of the people of Nineveh. However, even more broadly, we witness God's sovereignty over the entirety of His creation when He appoints everything from worms, plants and the elements to fulfill His purposes.

Although we make choices every day, God is sovereignly working in our lives to shape us, as well as in the lives of others and in the world around us based on His knowledge of all things

in order to accomplish His will. Therefore, the focus is not on us and our choices, but rather is on God and what He is doing.

- In what ways can I be more in tune with God's sovereign will rather than resist Him?
- How does my view of life in light of God's sovereignty as revealed in the Bible need to be challenged and changed?

### 3. Compassion and Mercy of God for the Lost (vv. 9-11)

As Jonah 4:2 captures the reason for Yahweh's sparing of the people of Nineveh as rooted in His character as the one true God who is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in love, likewise this is the heart that God had when Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, died on the cross for our sins for our violating God's Law, and bore the wrath of God in our place (Romans 3:23-26).

It is a heart of love, grace and compassion that God calls us as followers of Christ to have for the lost multitudes around us, including of course our family members, friends, co-workers, neighbours, and acquaintances who do not know Jesus Christ.

- Who are the lost people among whom the Lord has sovereignly placed me to live out my faith and proclaim Christ?
- How can I increasingly grow to have God's heart of love, compassion and mercy for the lost?

**Main Point: Let us trust in God's sovereign ordering of our lives, including in our struggles with anger and bitterness in our circumstances, having His heart of love and compassion for those around us who do not know Him.**