

CHASING JONAH

Session Four – JONAH'S ANGRY HEART

From Chapter One

God called His prophet Jonah to go to Nineveh to preach to them. Jonah not only refused, but fled toward Tarshish (in Spain) by ship. God used a storm, the pagan sailors, and a casting of lots to call upon Jonah, and by implication, Israel, to repent. Jonah exhibited a "**rebellious heart**," but God chased Jonah with His mercy.

From Chapter Two

Jonah proved himself to be form over substance. He wrote a beautiful Psalm about his experience of nearly drowning and being swallowed by a great fish, but retained an "**unrepentant heart**." Jonah prayed for deliverance, but he blamed God and did not accept responsibility.

From Chapter Three

Jonah squandered his chance for restoration. He went to Nineveh, and his ministry there resulted in revival, but he wanted them to die. Jonah maintained an "**unfaithful heart**."

Studying Chapter Four

OPENING: If there has been movement in the heart of the prophet, that movement went from rebellion to livid **anger**.

IV. JONAH'S ANGRY HEART (CH. 4)

a. Angry Jonah wants to die (4:1-3)

- No joy in Jonah's heart for Nineveh's revival
- Angry because his message was well-received
- There are often **three** sides to the issue
- Jonah said to God: I TOLD YOU SO!
- Jonah prefers death to **repentance** and turning back to God

b. God interrogates Jonah (4:4)

- Same question God asked **Cain**

c. Jonah loves his gourd (4:5-6)

- Focused on personal **comfort**
- No gratitude toward God
- Worse than **apathy**; Jonah wants them dead

d. God takes Jonah's gourd (4:7)

- Jeroboam II's prosperous reign will soon end

e. Angry Jonah wants to die (4:8)

- Because of the heat and the gourd!
- His reasoning is **absurd**

f. God intervenes for Jonah (4:9-11)

- Jonah claims the moral high ground, **rebuffs** God
- God loved the people of Nineveh

CLOSING: You write the ending.