

## ***Happily Ever After? (Jonah 4:1-4)***

- I. **Introduction**
  - A. Happy Endings vs. Real life
  - B. What if Jonah's story ended at chapter 3?
  - C. Chapter 4 is the greatest enigma in the book of Jonah
  - D. Reading the text and setting the course for the message
  
- II. **Jonah ruins the happy ending by getting angry at God (Jonah 4:1-3)**
  - A. Jonah counted God's merciful act in saving Nineveh, as sin!
    1. Recall the historical evil of Assyria
    2. Jonah's reaction is similar to the older brother in the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:25-30)
    3. Jonah's pity party (Jonah 4:2-3,5,8)
  - B. Had Jonah repented in the belly of the fish, or not?
    1. Jonah wasn't the first to experience something like this (1 Kings 19:4-5)
    2. And he wasn't the last to experience it either (Luke 7:20)
    3. Jonah's failure is a reminder to us of our *continual* need for the Gospel – and our *continual* need to repent and believe it!
      - a. are we new creations or not?
      - b. Jonah's no worse than you – he IS you!
    4. We sin like Jonah any time we get angry at God's providential activity in the affairs of men – He will have mercy on whom He will have mercy – and that needs to be ok!
  - C. Chapter 4 doesn't ruin the happy ending at all, but instead focuses our attention to where it should be directed – the mercy of God!
  
- III. **Jonah's passion provides a contrast to God's compassion (Jonah 4:2)**
  - A. The best teaching is done by contrast
  - B. Jonah prayed, and God answered – showing the relationship
  - C. Jonah had a correct understanding of God's nature
    1. Gracious
    2. Merciful or compassionate
    3. Slow to anger
    4. abounding in love
    5. relents to do harm
  - D. Why did Jonah despise these attributes of God?
  - E. How is it that we despise these attributes of God?
  
- IV. **God asks Jonah and us to evaluate our hearts (Jonah 4:4)**
  - A. Is it right for you to be angry at whatever circumstances are making you angry, when God has good intent in ordaining it?
  - B. Do you know your propensity to despise mercy?
  - C. As a church let us be charitable to other churches that differ in their expressions and practices ... *If Christ be preached...!*